VARIATIONS

ON A MOTIVE OF BEETHOVEN

for full orchestra

GORDON RING

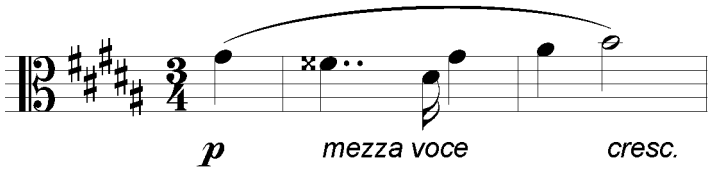
VARIATIONS

ON A MOTIVE OF BEETHOVEN

Gordon Ring

The motive on which this work is based is found as the opening four melodic notes of sixth movement (of seven) in Beethoven's String Quartet No. 14 in C-Sharp Minor, op. 131:

No. 6 - Adagio quasi un poco andante, m. 2-4, viola



This sixth movement, as numbered by Beethoven in the score, serves as a slow introduction to, and moves without pause, directly into the seventh movement Allegro which concludes the work.

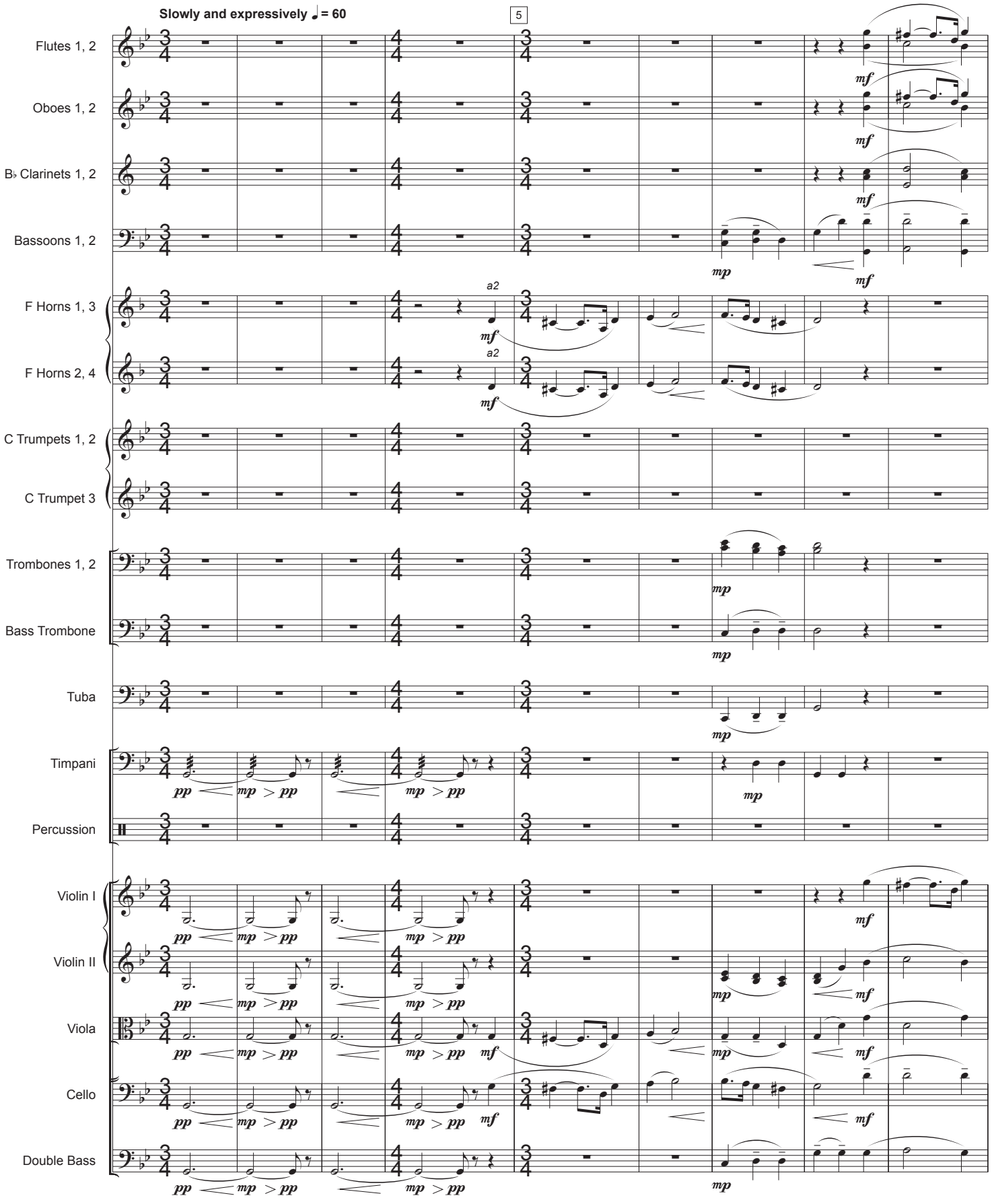
Beethoven first discussed the composition of this work in December 1825, and the work was completed by July 1826. However, it did not appear in a published version until June 1827, three months after the composer's death. The score is dedicated to the Baron Joseph von Stutterheim.

Unlike a typical theme and variations, Beethoven's motive serves as a musical generating device in the composition of this work. Following a rescoring of Beethoven's original sixth movement with metric alteration the motive becomes a generator of four variations, actually four short pieces, unified by statements of the motive. These statements are inverted, elaborated, and used in several modes.

VARIATIONS

ON A MOTIVE OF BEETHOVEN

GORDON RING



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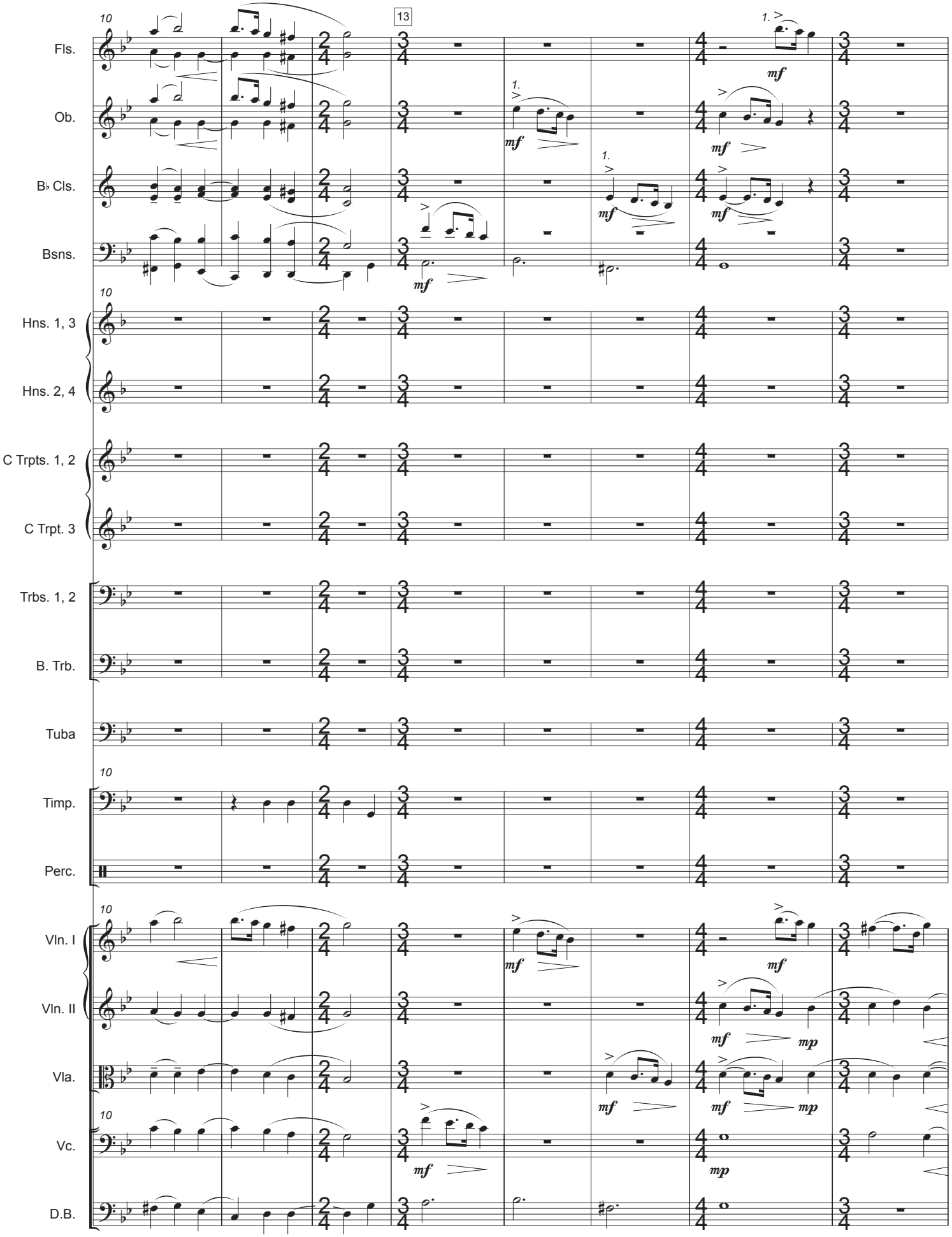
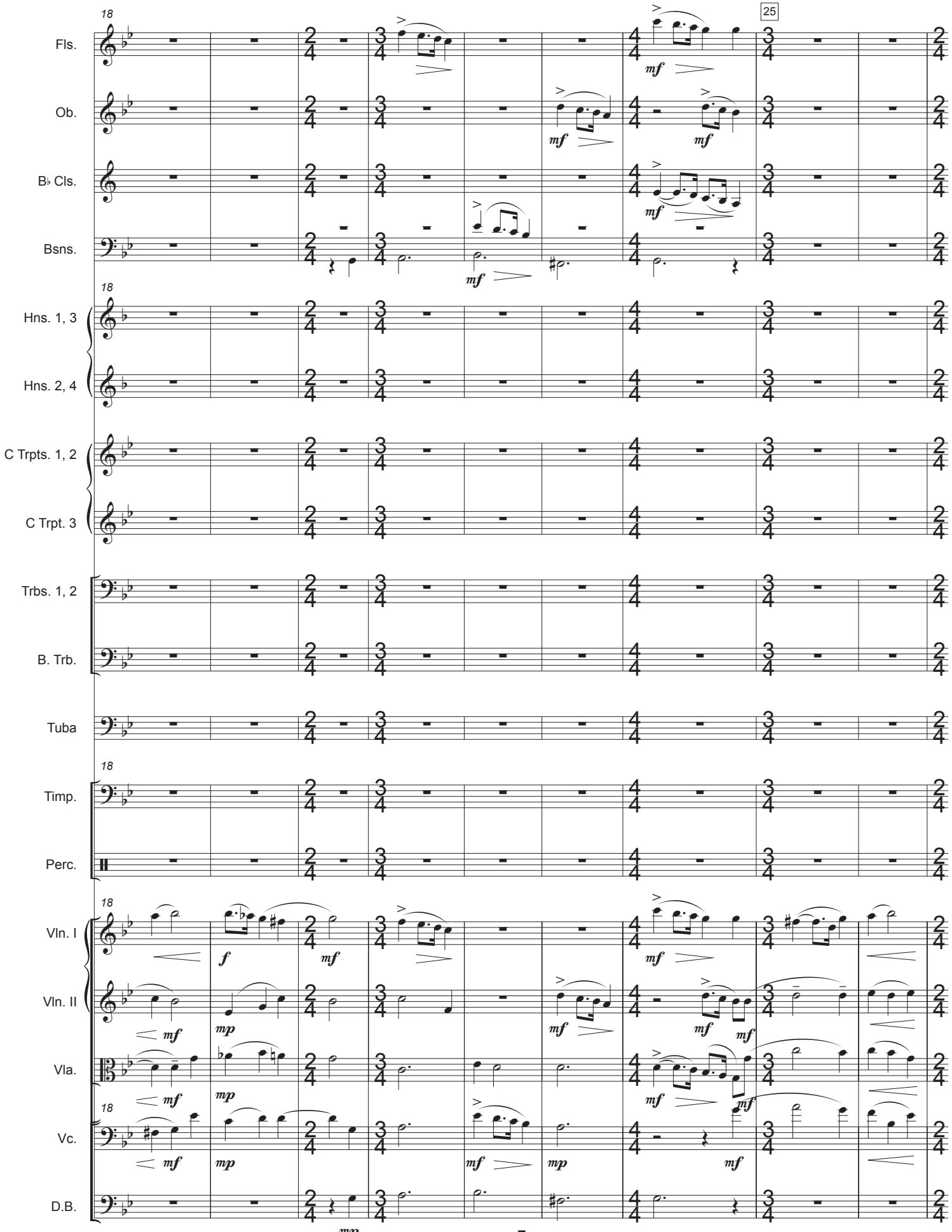
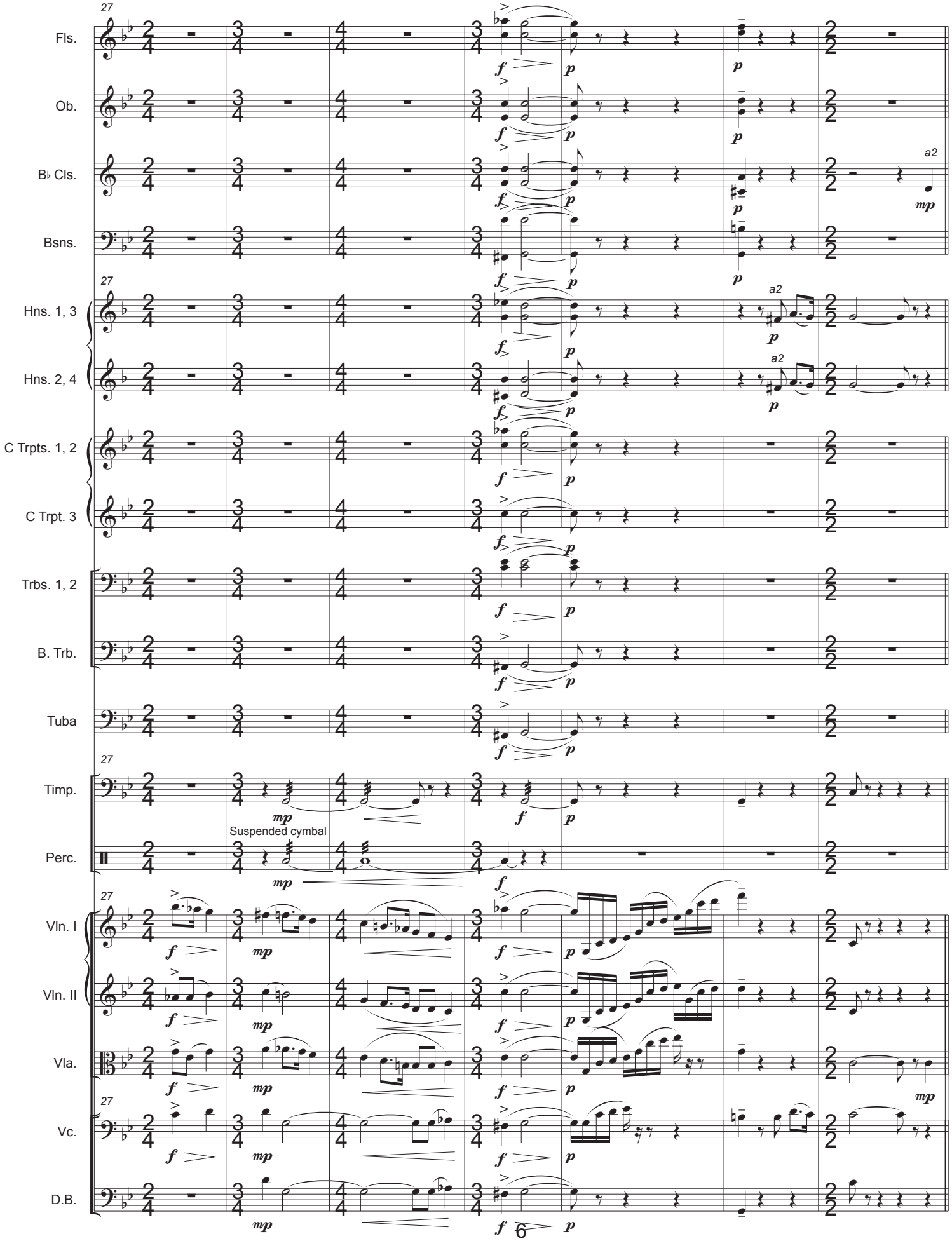
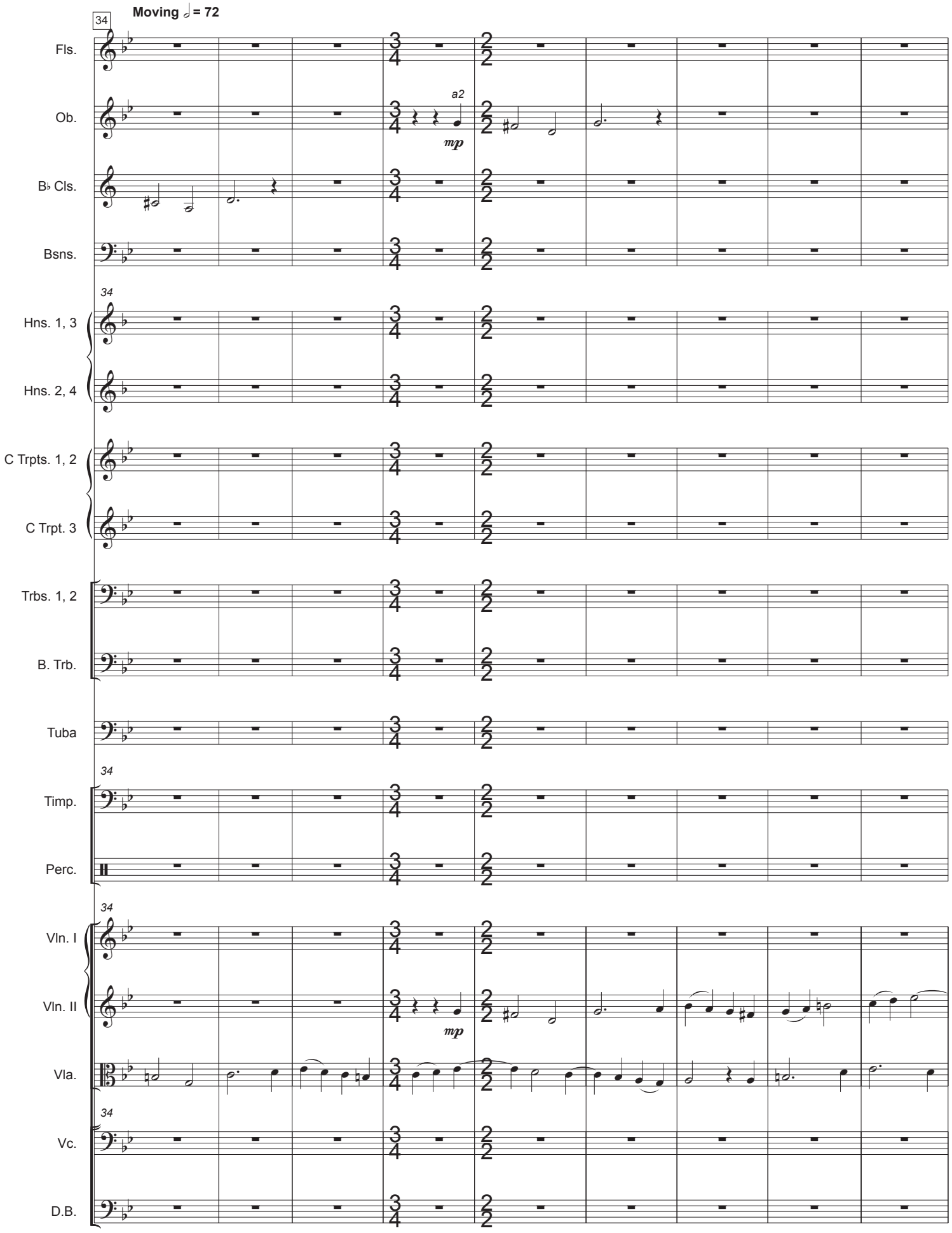
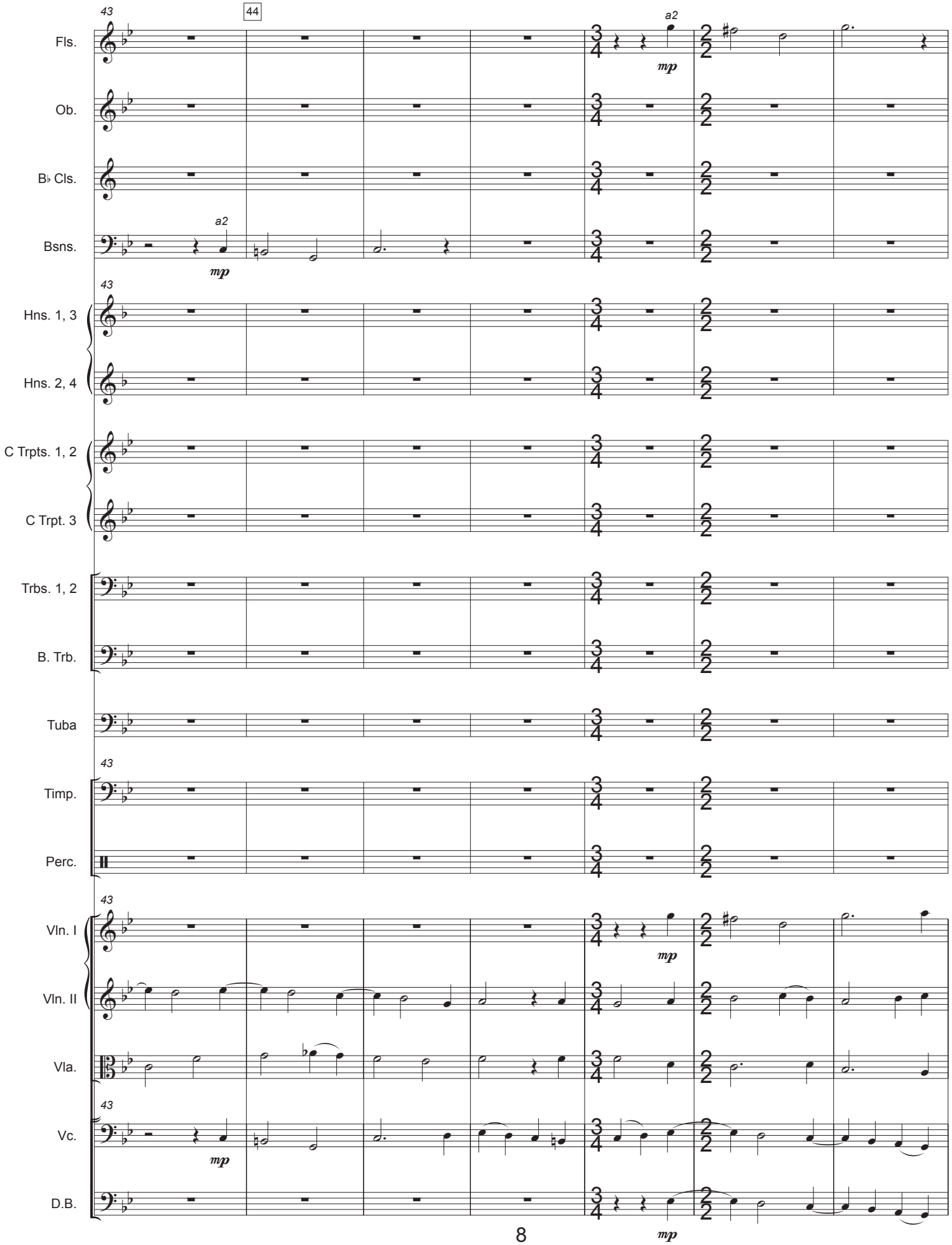
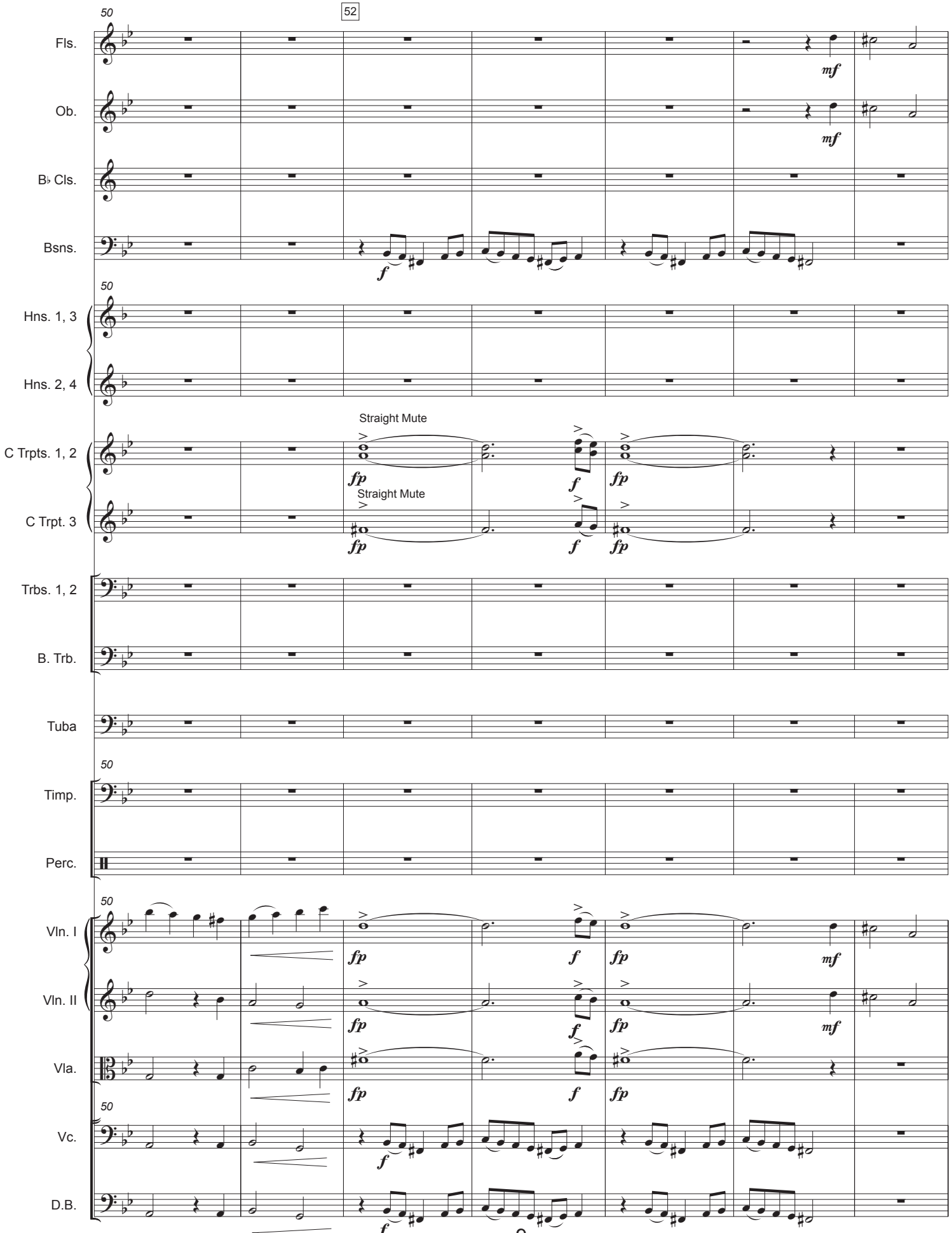

10
13
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
mf
mp
1.

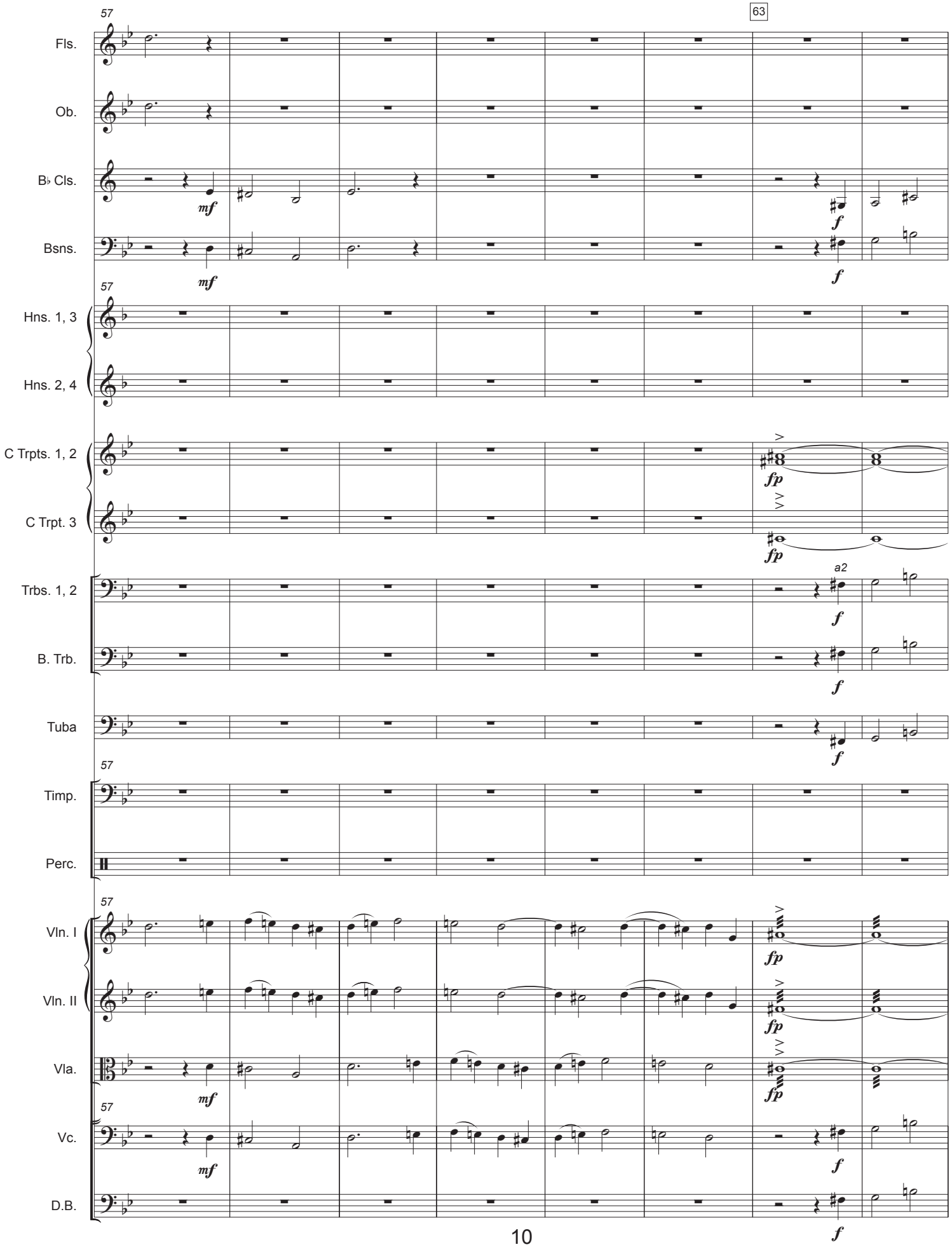

18
25
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
mf
f
mp

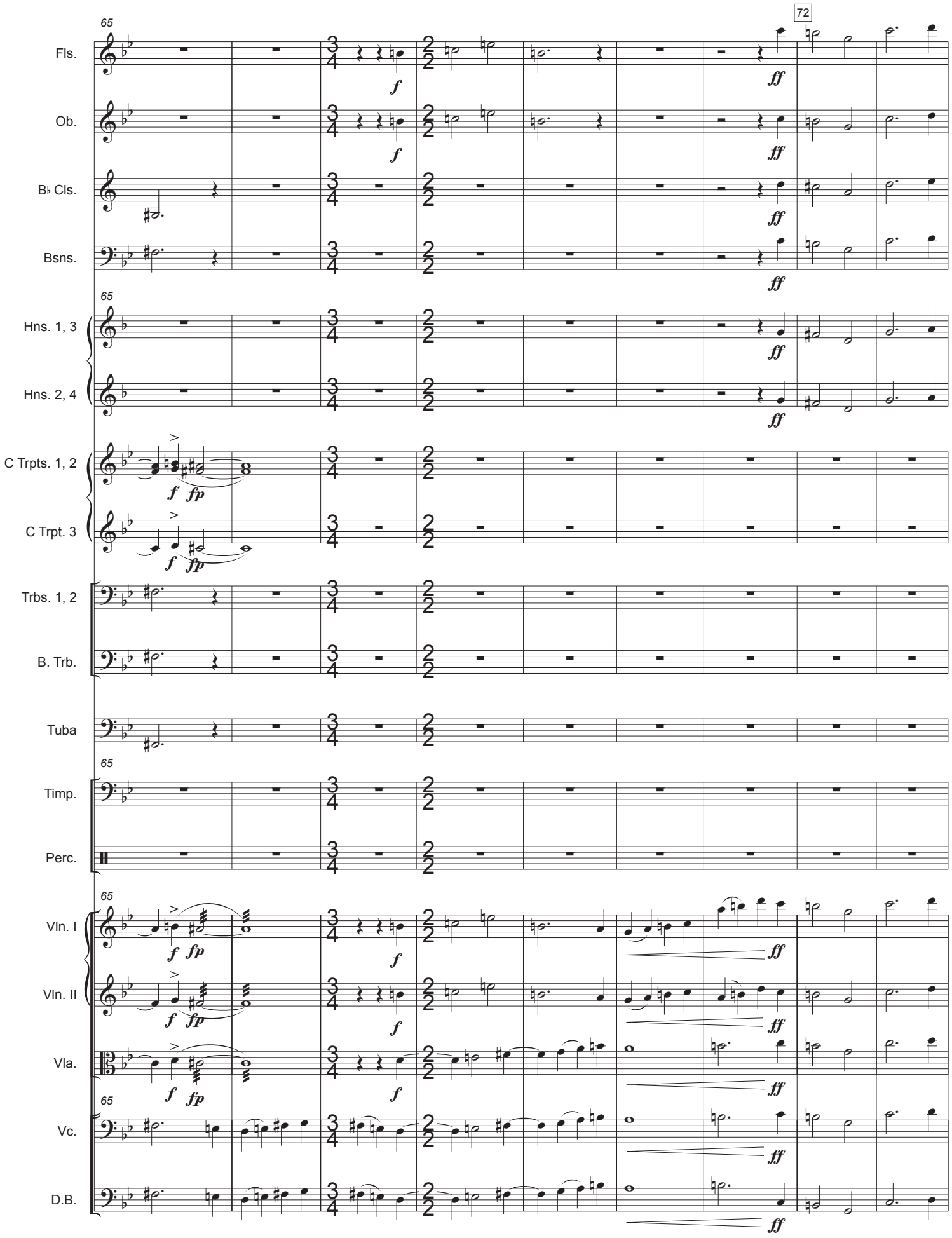

27
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
Timp.
Perc.
Suspended cymbal
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
a2
f
mp
p

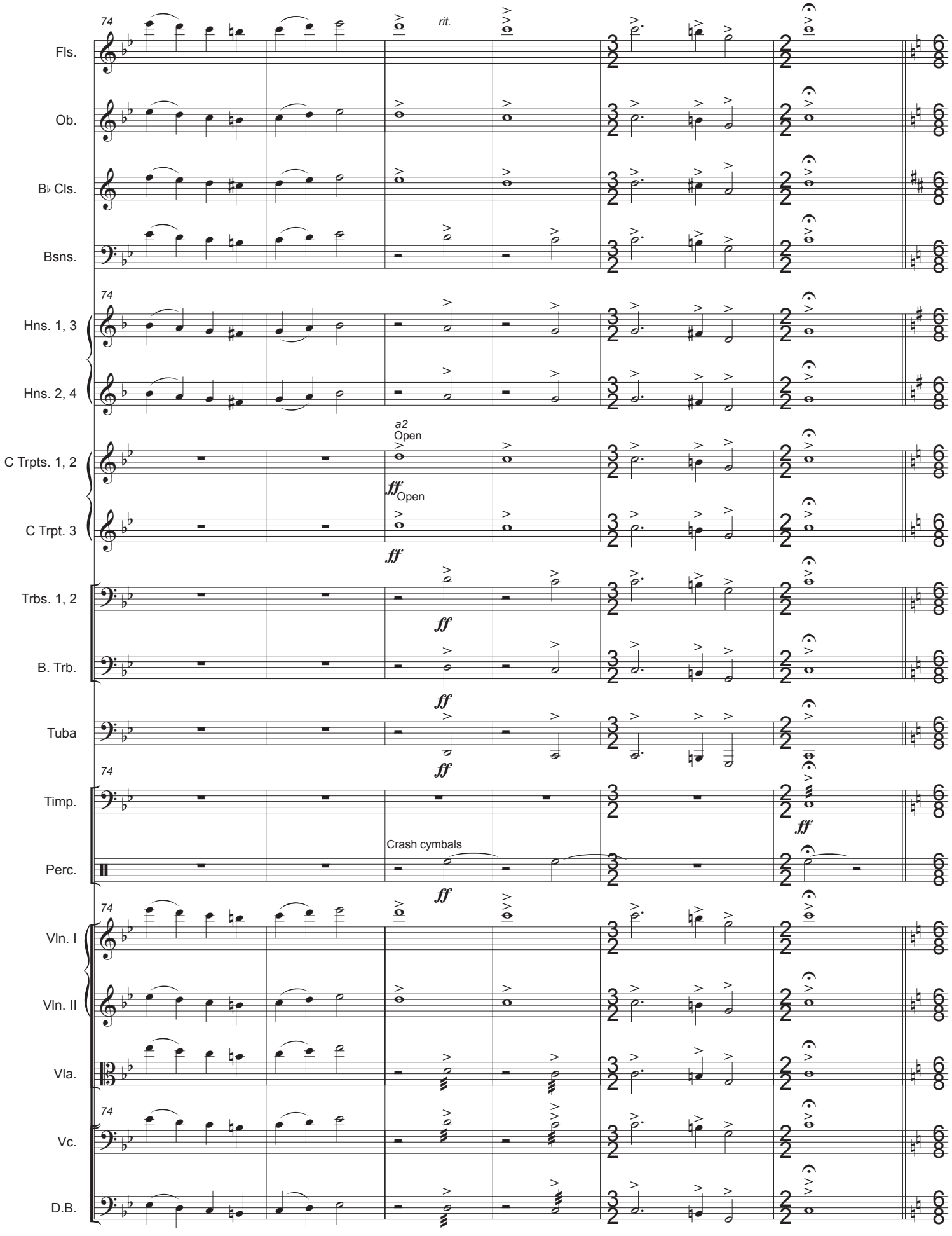

Moving ♩ = 72
34
Fls.
Ob.
a2
mp
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
34
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
34
Timp.
Perc.
34
Vln. I
Vln. II
mp
Vla.
34
Vc.
D.B.

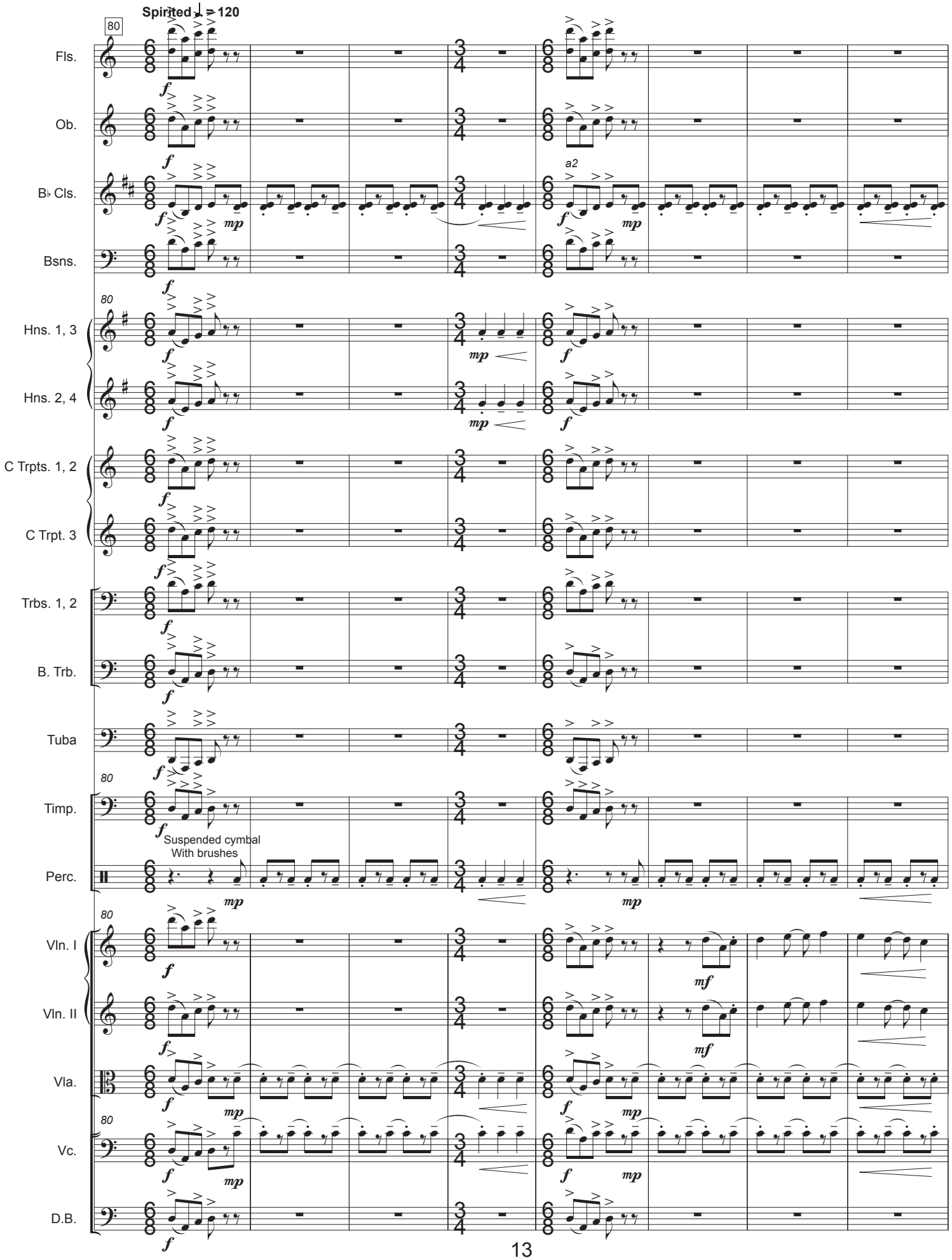

43
44
a2
mp
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

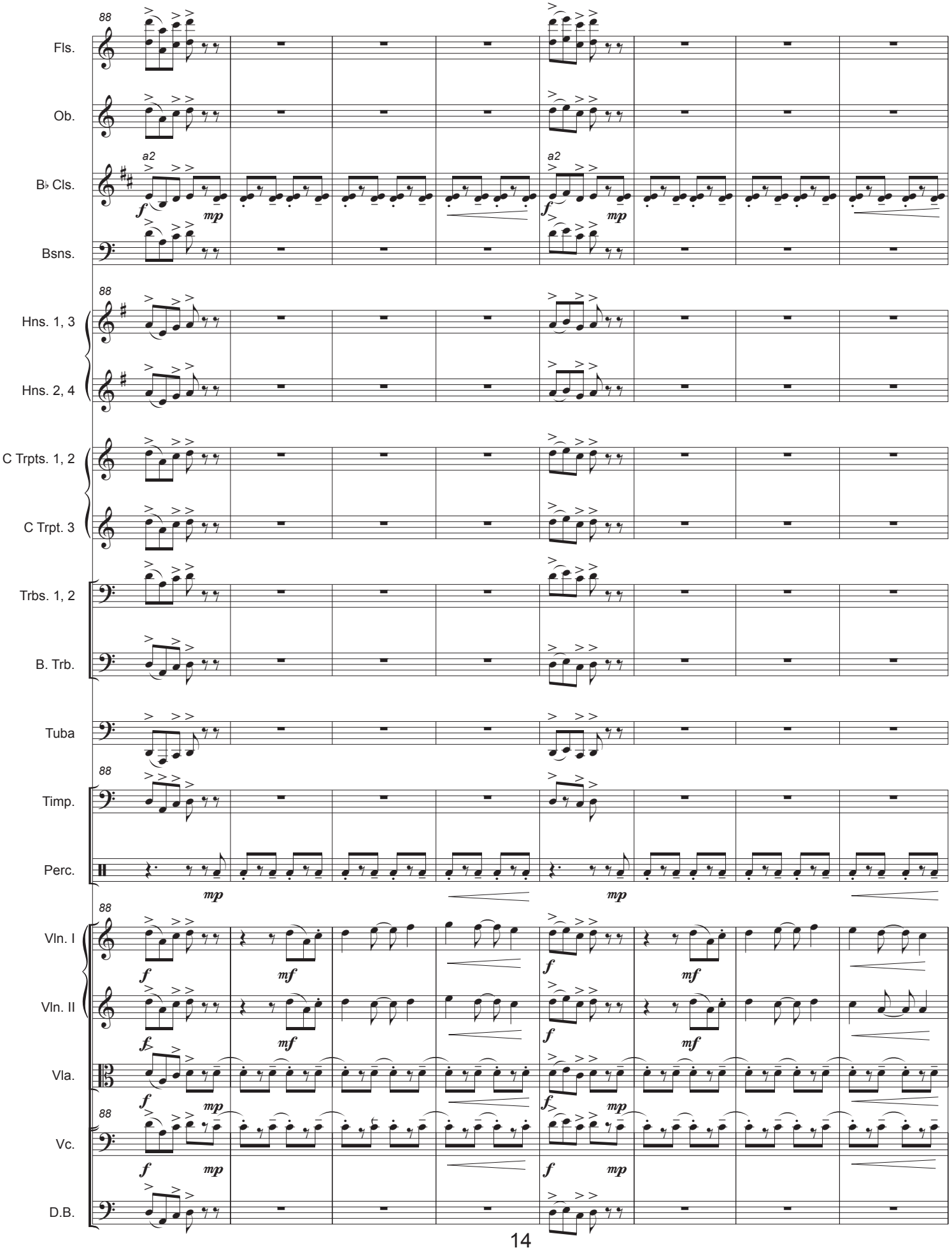

50
52
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Straight Mute
Straight Mute
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
fp
f
mf

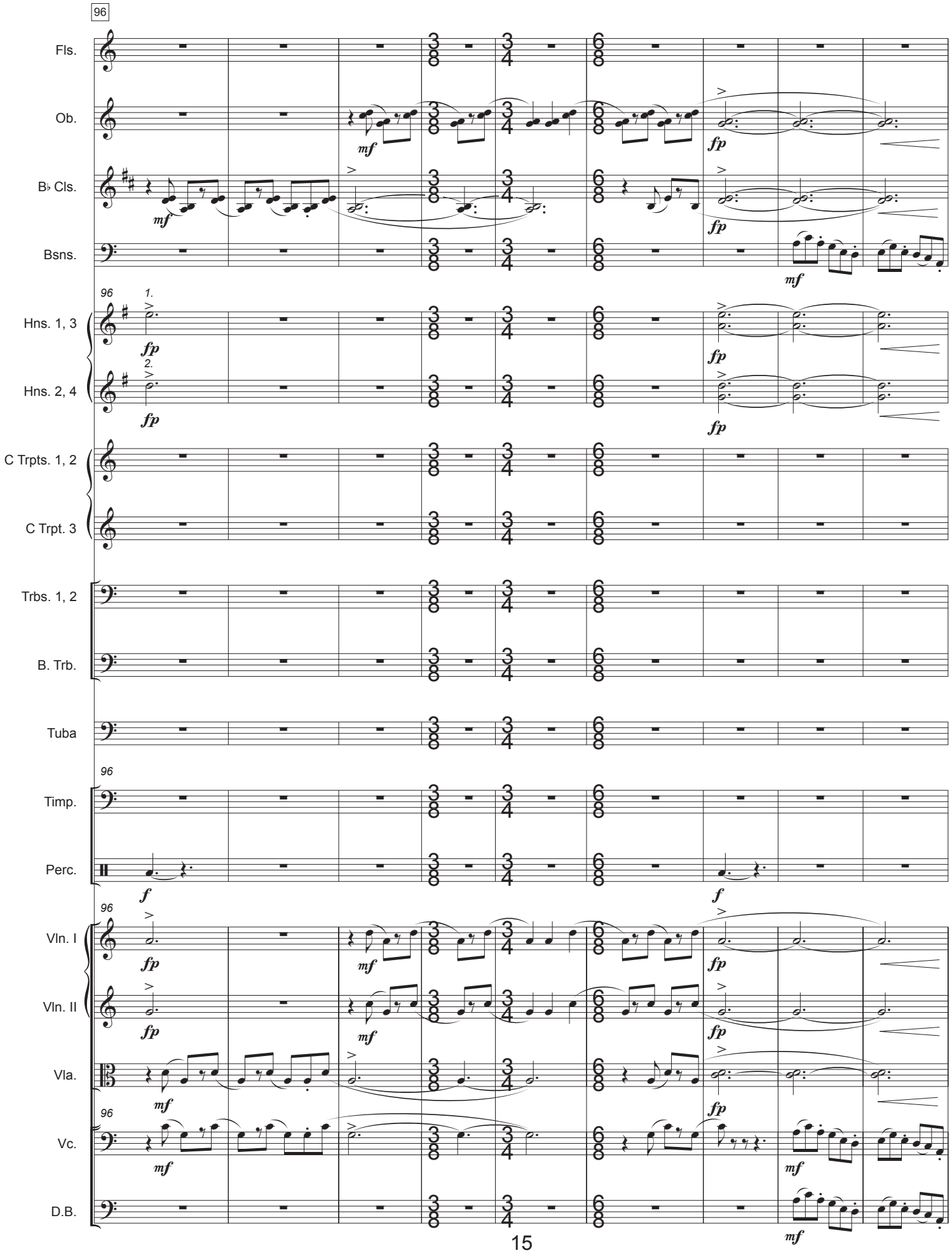

57
63
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
mf
f
fp
a2

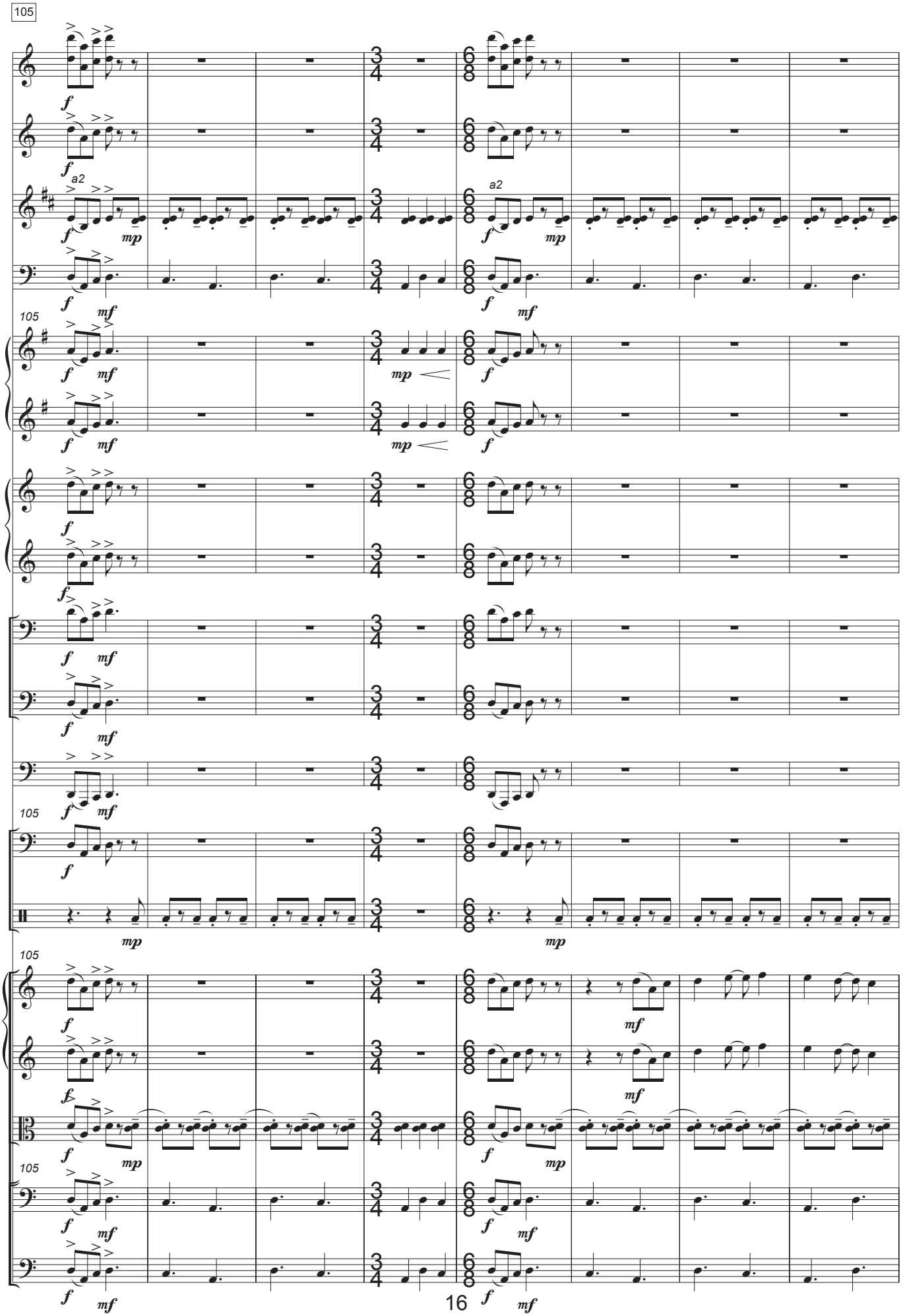

72
65
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
f
fp
ff

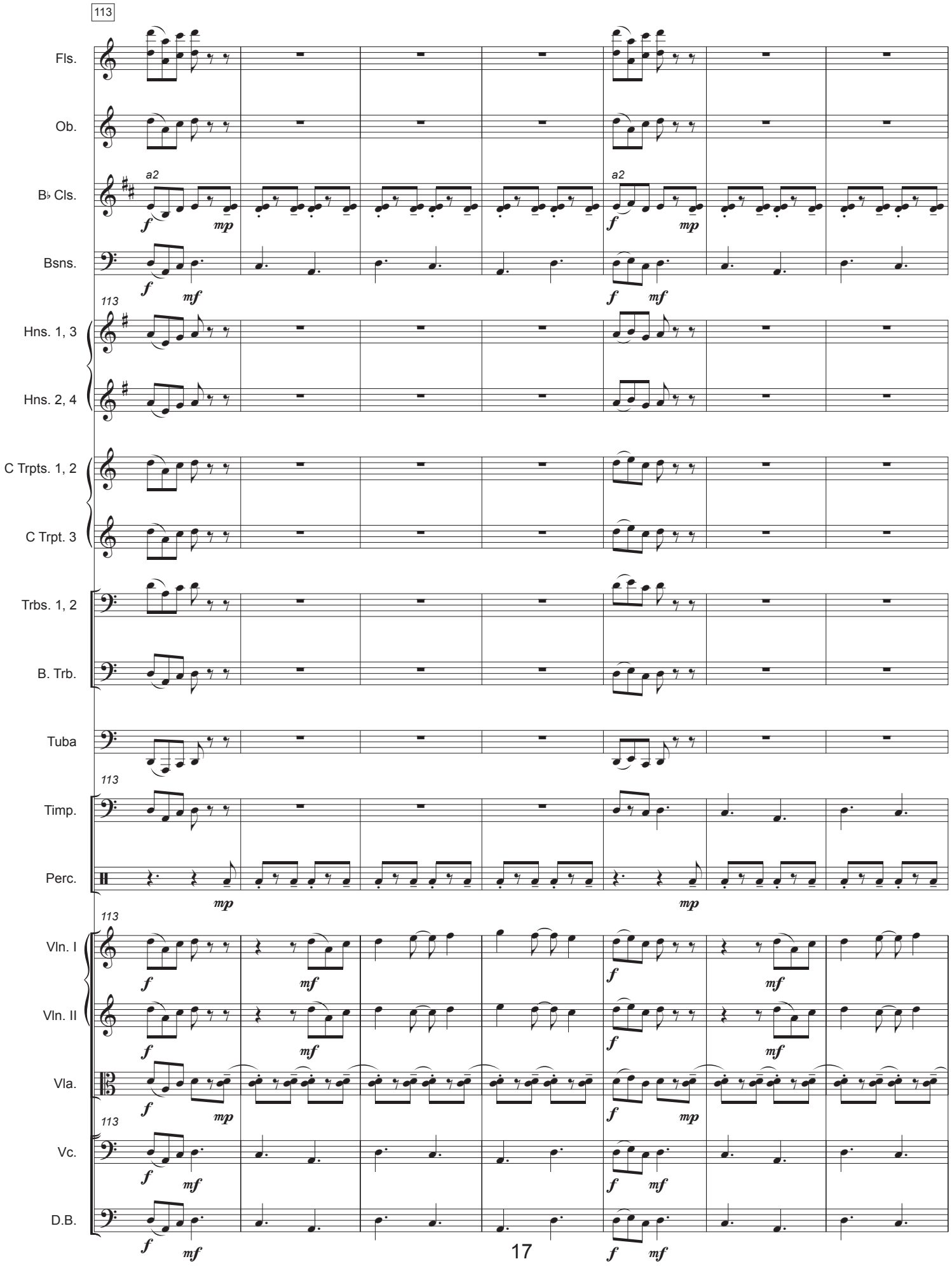

74
rit.
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
74
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
a2
Open
C Trpts. 1, 2
ff
Open
C Trpt. 3
ff
Trbs. 1, 2
ff
B. Trb.
ff
Tuba
74
ff
Timp.
ff
Crash cymbals
Perc.
ff
74
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
74
Vc.
D.B.

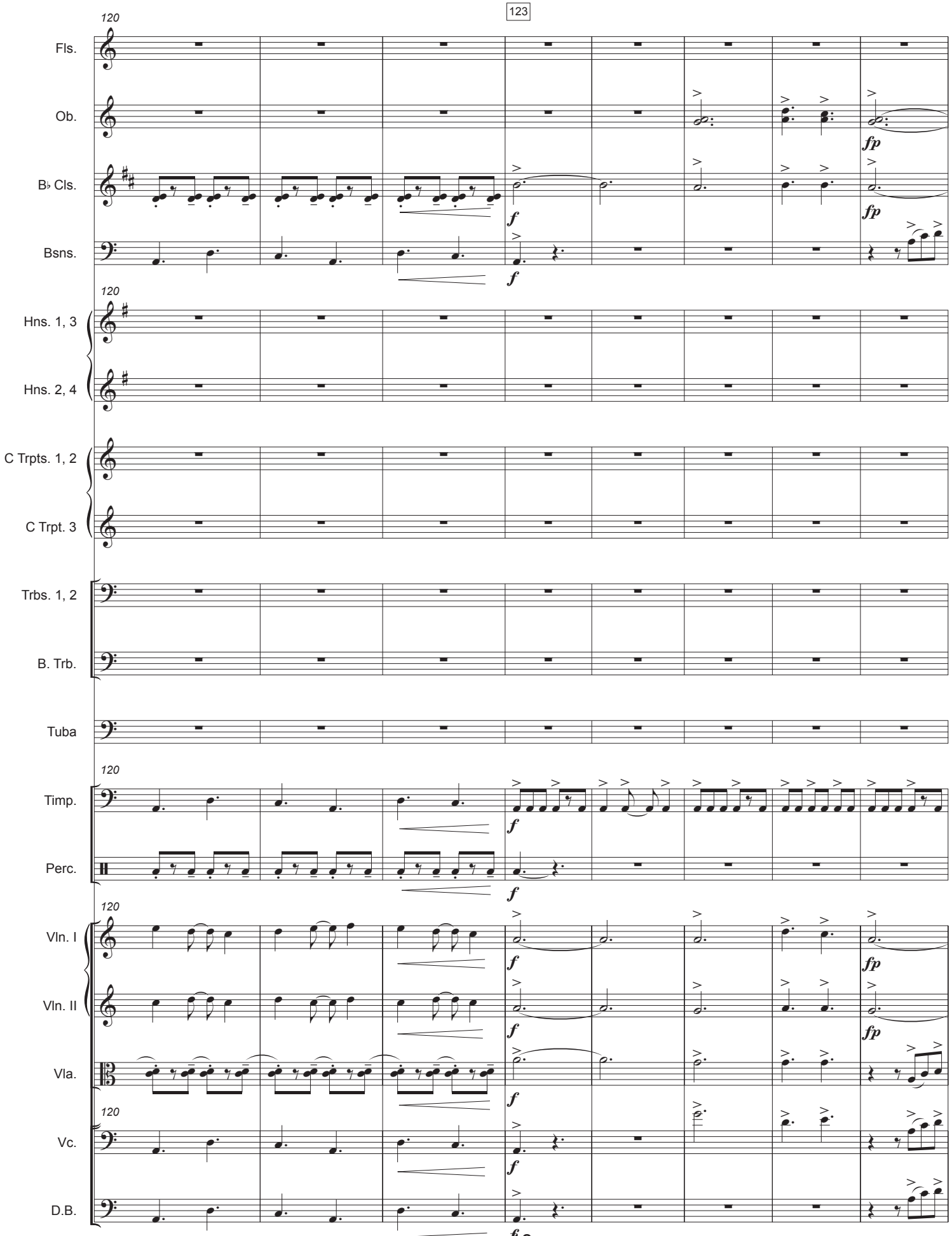

Spirited ♩ = 120
80
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
a2
Bsns.
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
Timp.
Suspended cymbal
With brushes
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

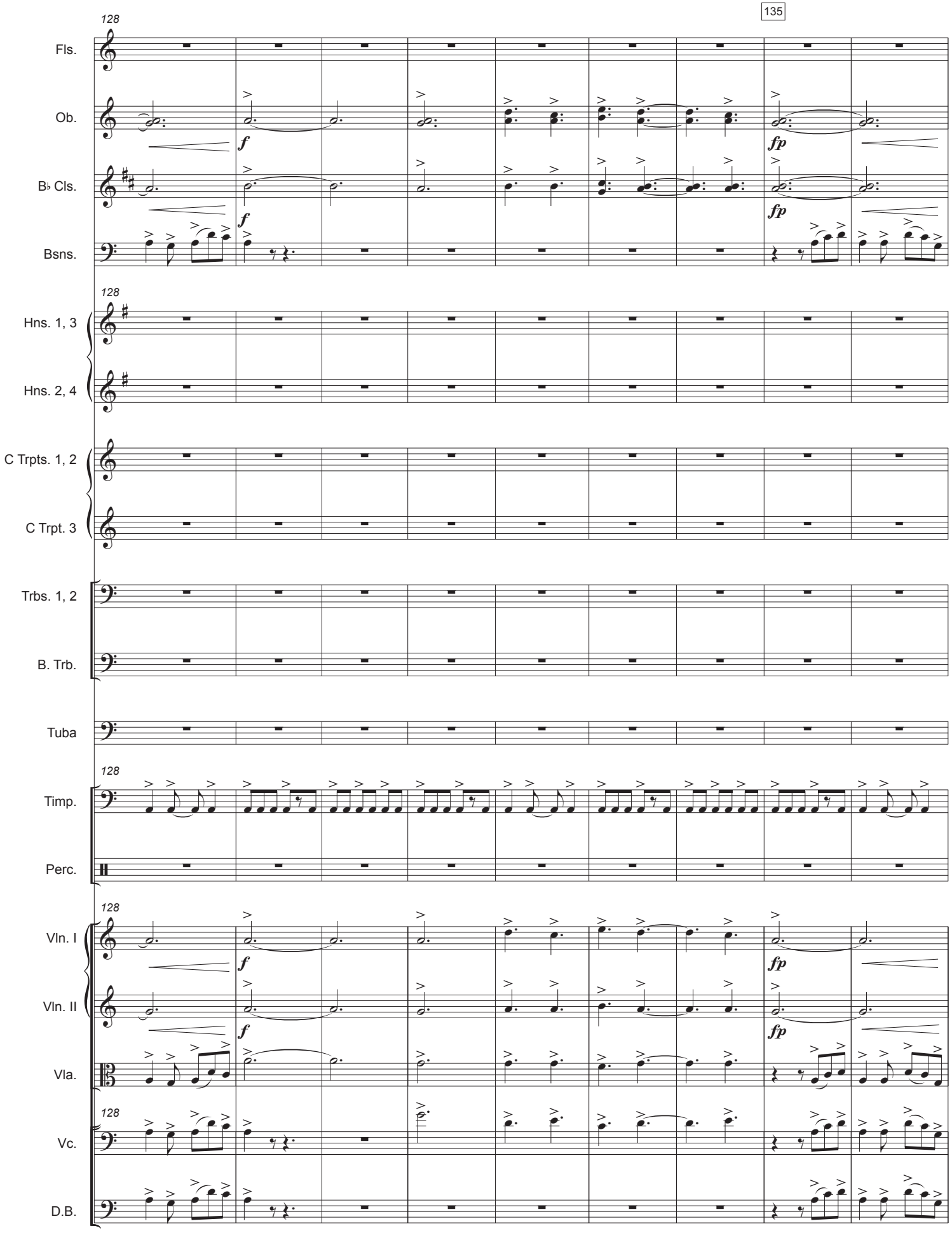

88
Fls.
Ob.
a2
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
f
mp
mf

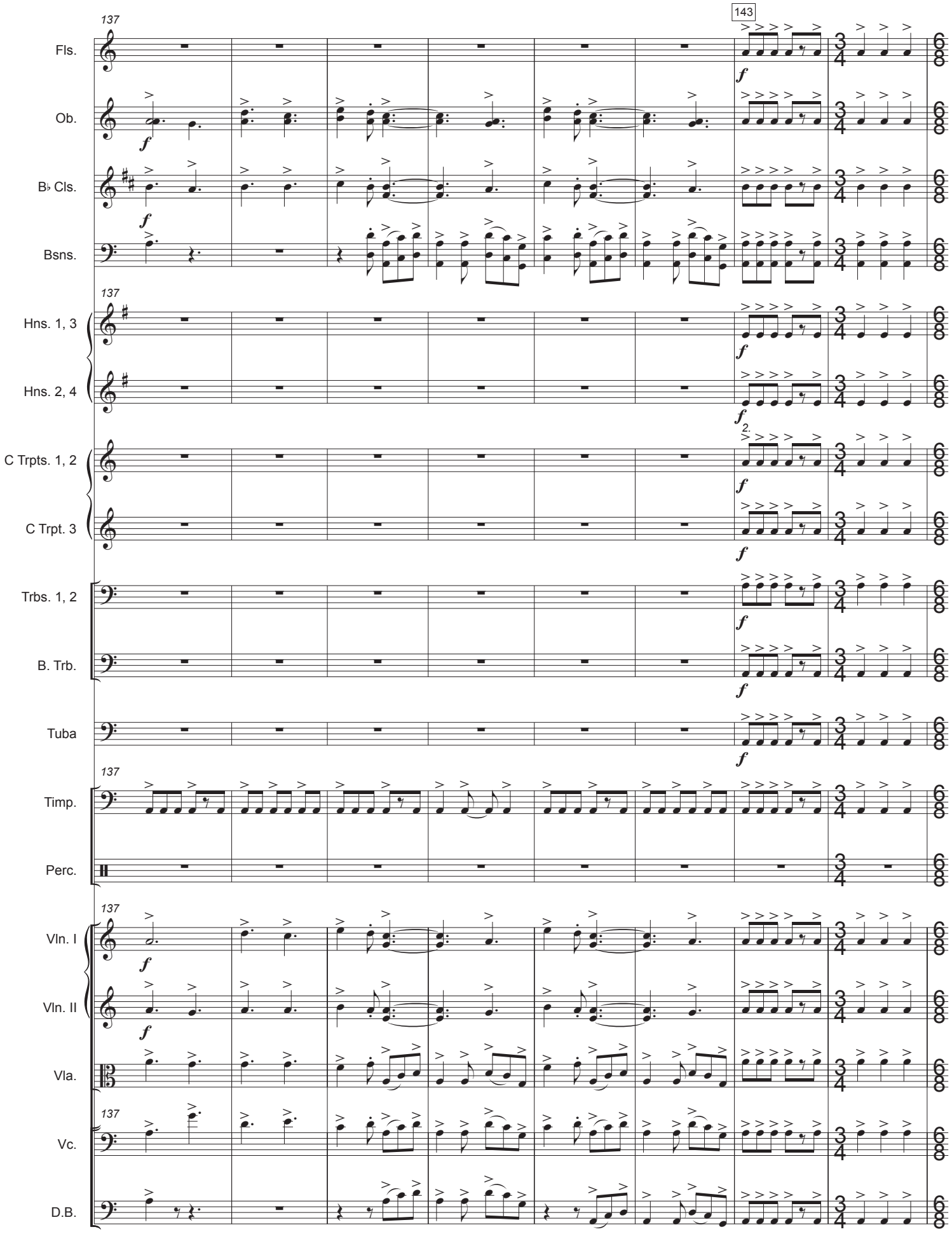

96
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
96
1.
2.
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
96
Timp.
Perc.
96
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
96
Vc.
D.B.
mf
fp
f

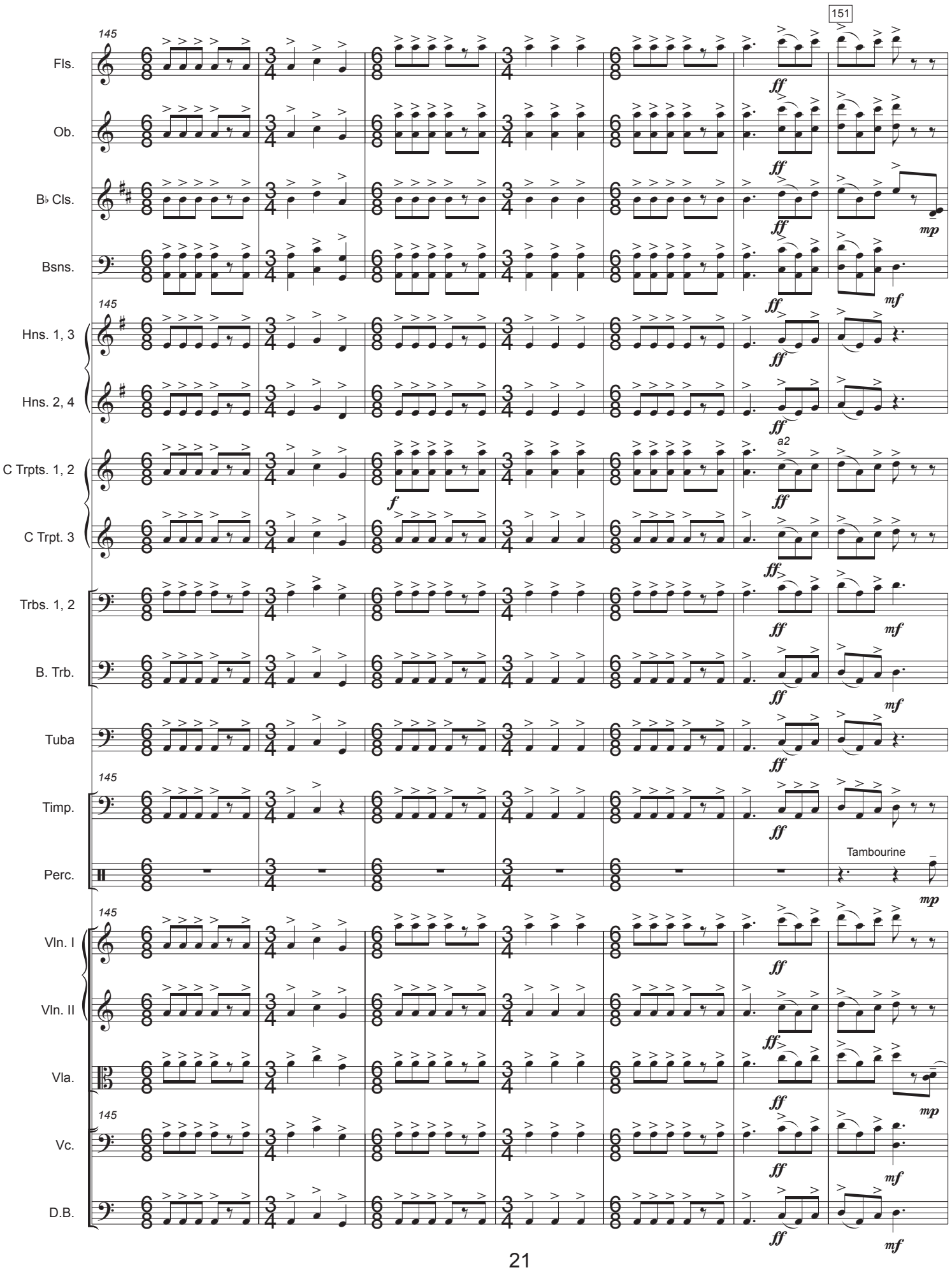

105
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
a2
f
mf
mp

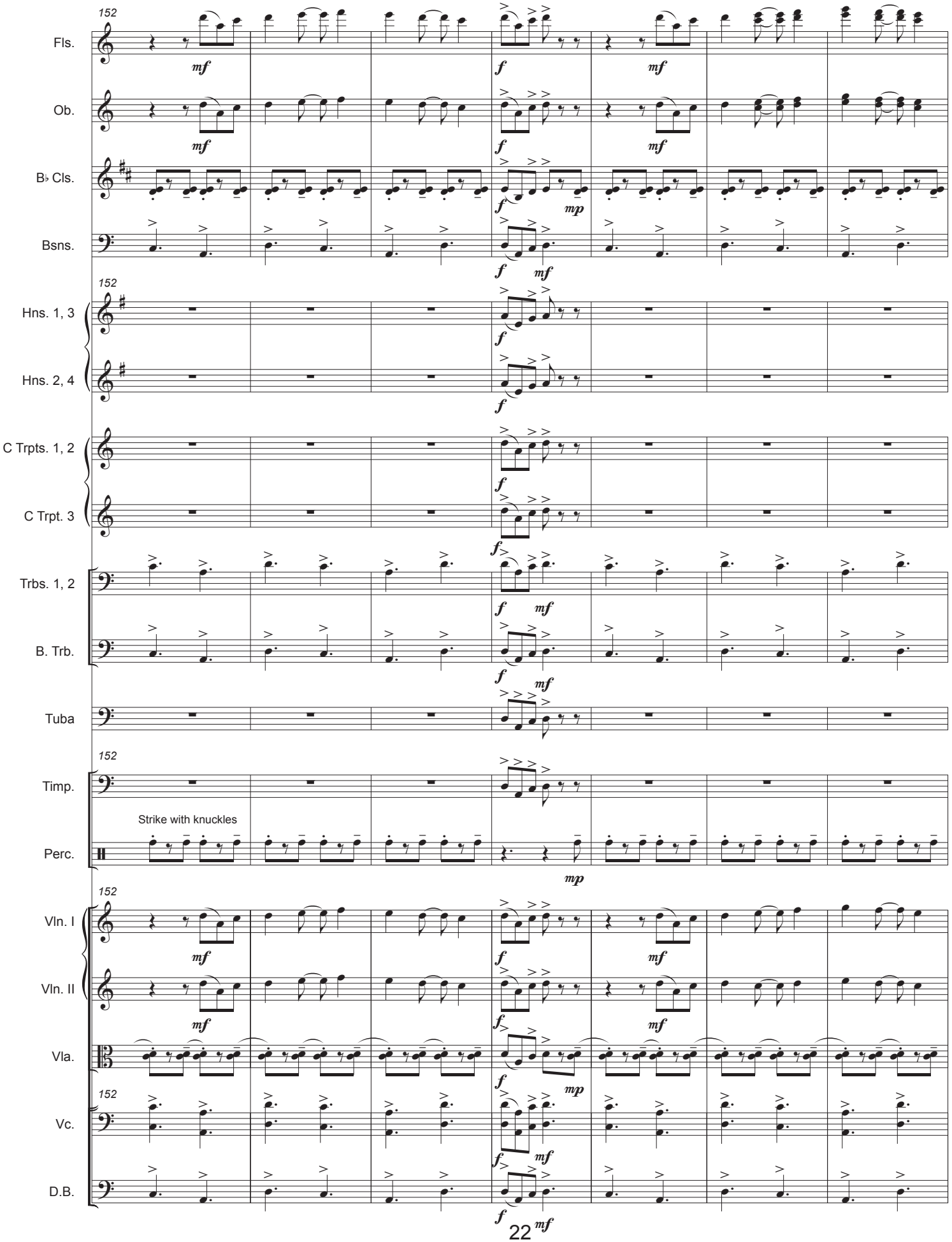

113
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
a2
a2
Bsns.
113
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
113
Timp.
Perc.
113
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
113
Vc.
D.B.

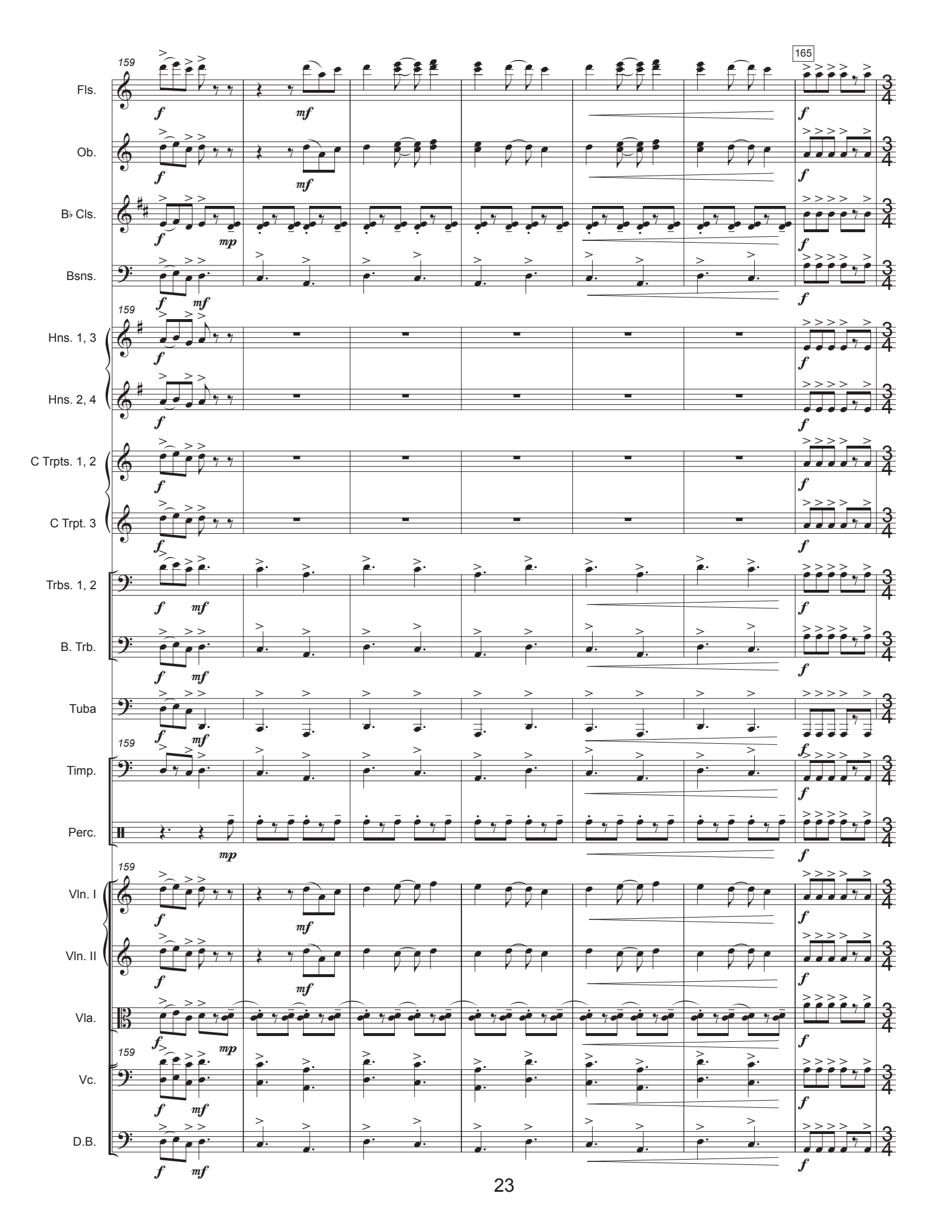

120
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
fp
f
120
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
120
Timp.
Perc.
120
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
120
Vc.
D.B.

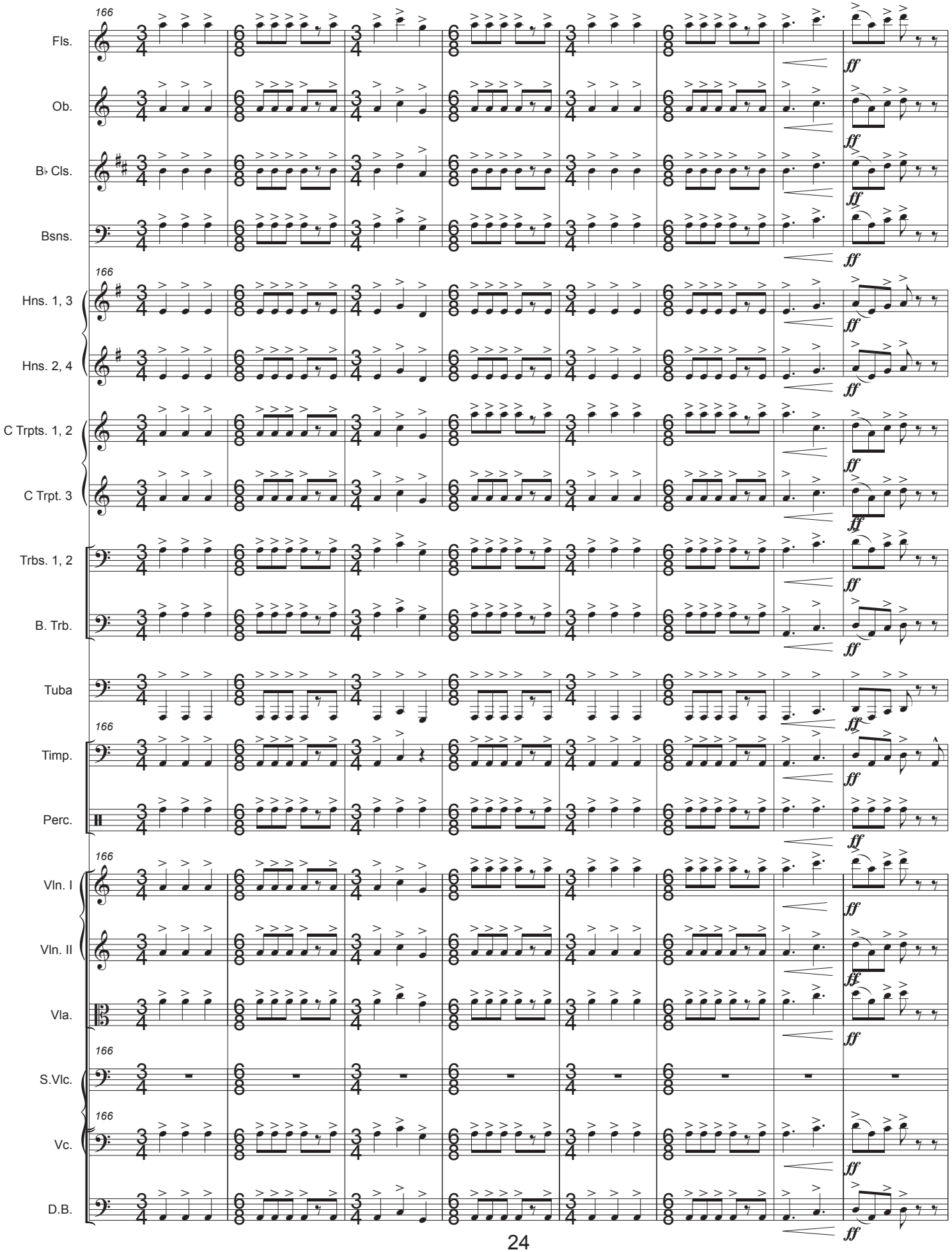

128
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
f
fp
128
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
128
Timp.
Perc.
128
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
128
Vc.
D.B.

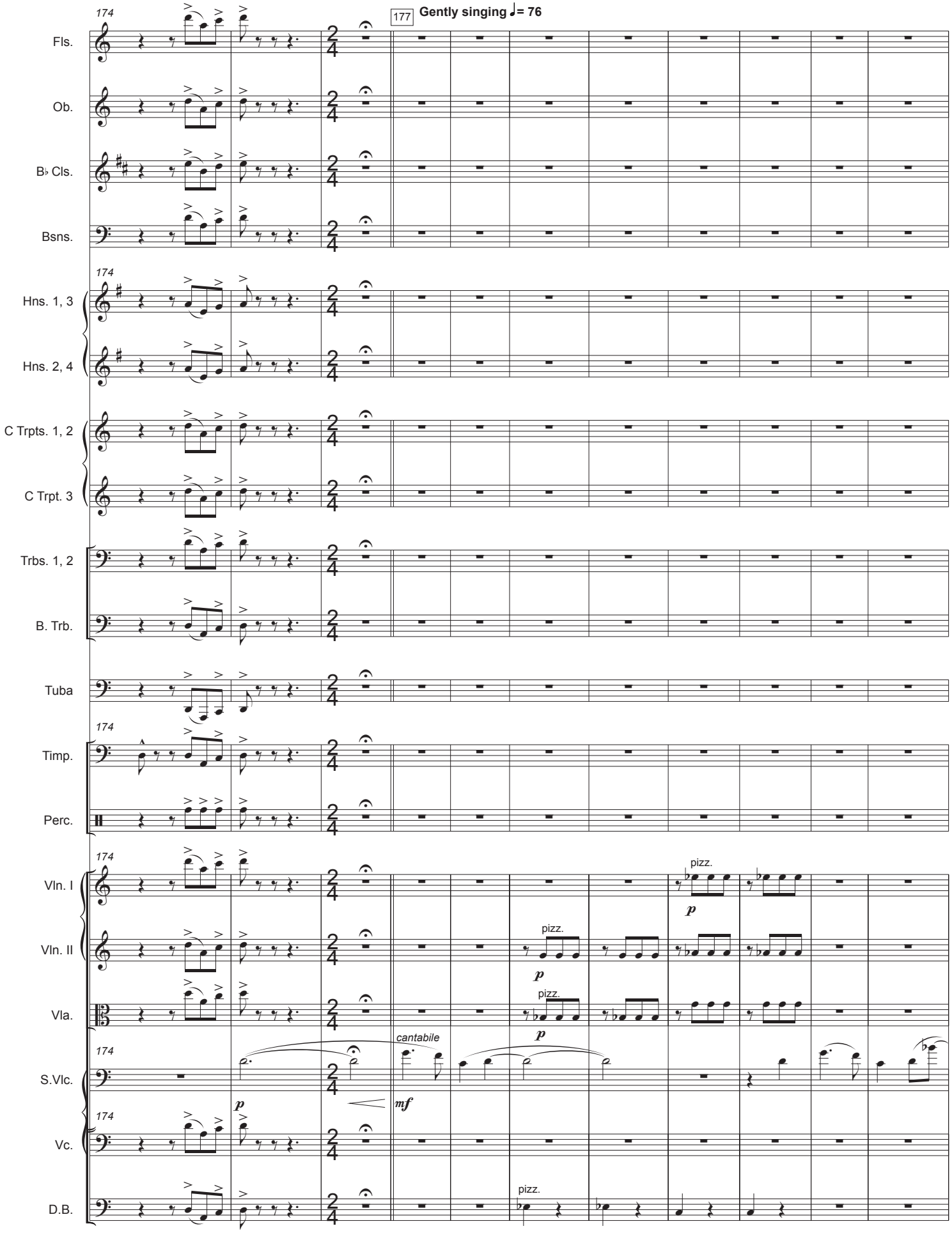

137
143
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
f
2.

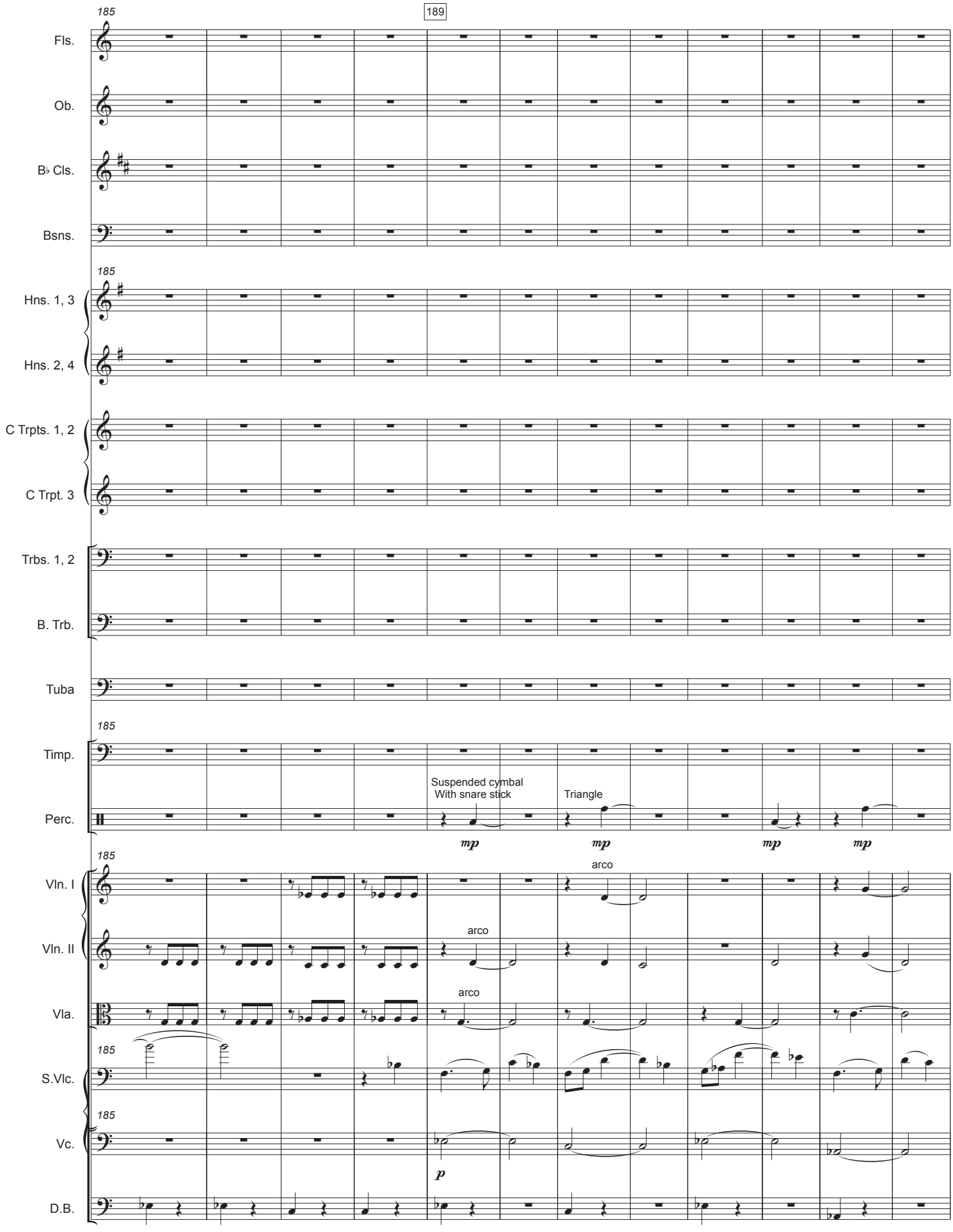

151
145
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
ff
mp
mf
f
a2
Tambourine

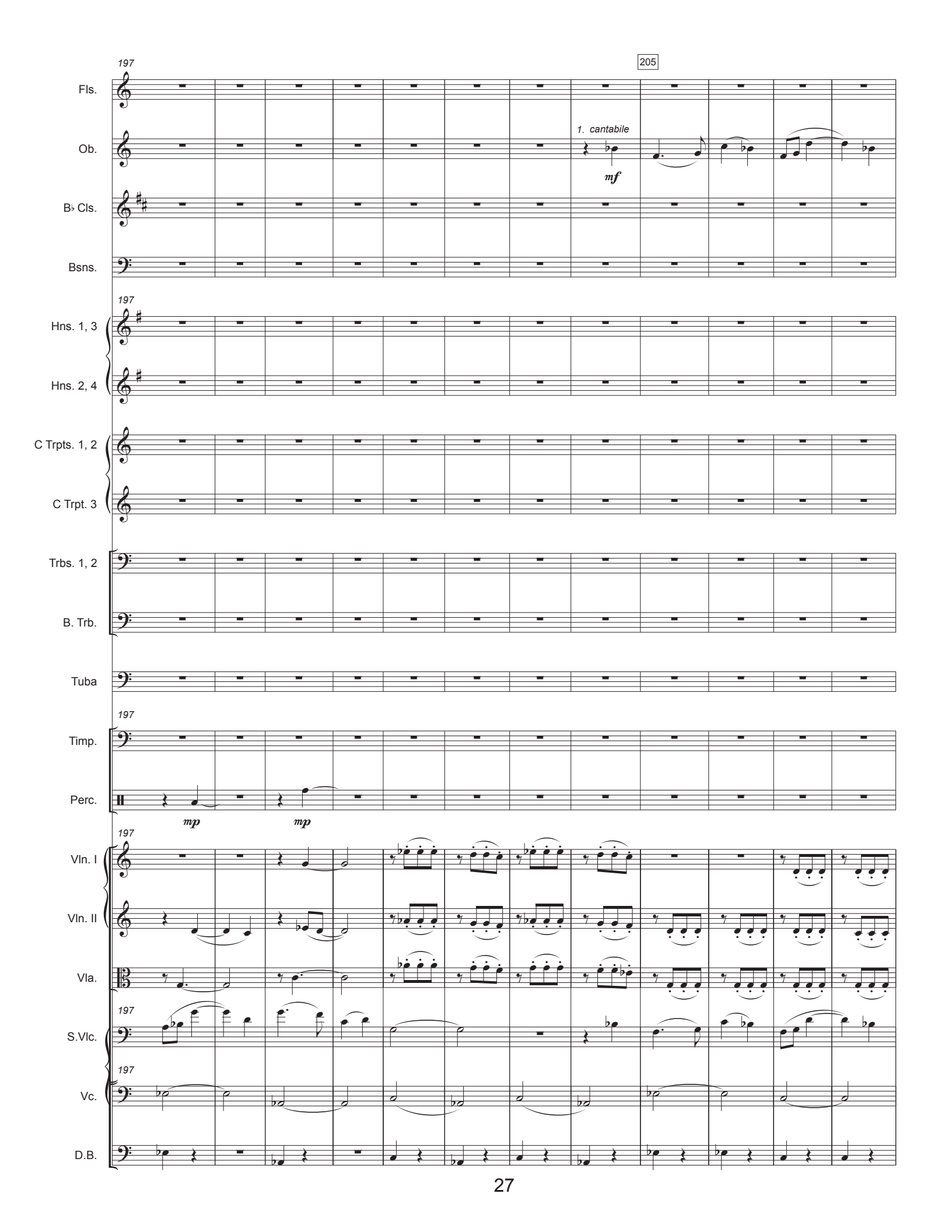

152
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
Timp.
Strike with knuckles
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
mf
f
mp

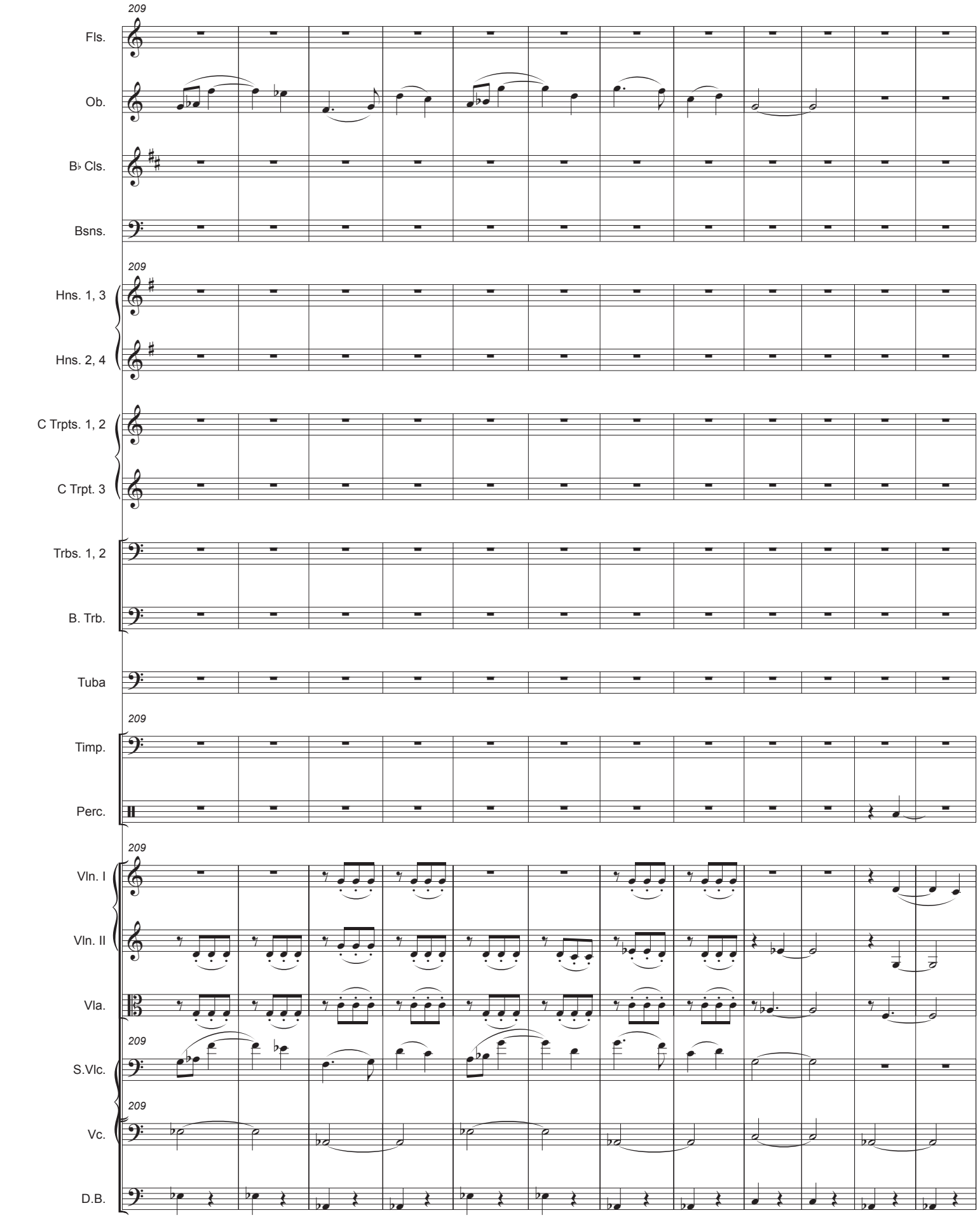

159
165
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

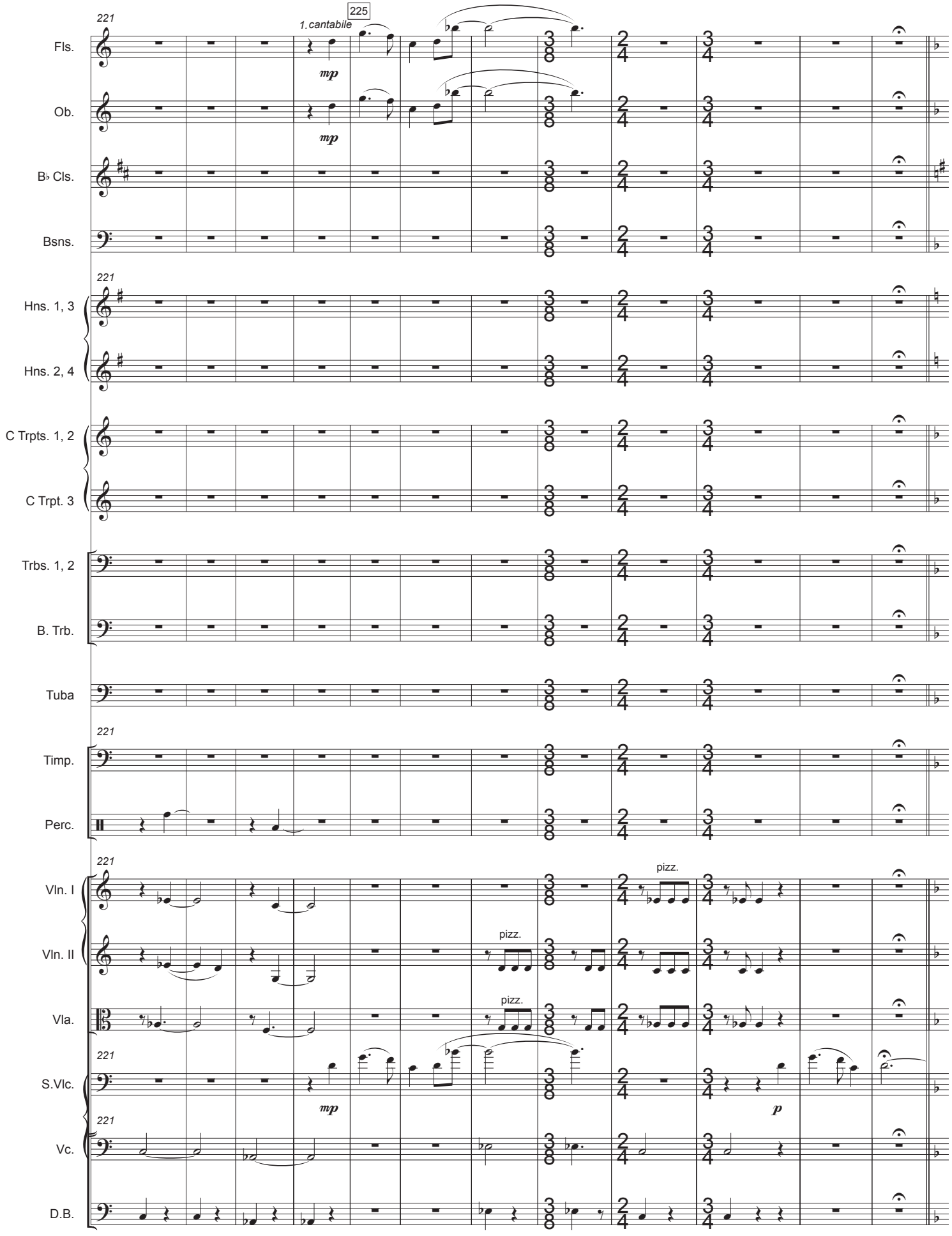

166
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
S.Vlc.
Vc.
D.B.
ff

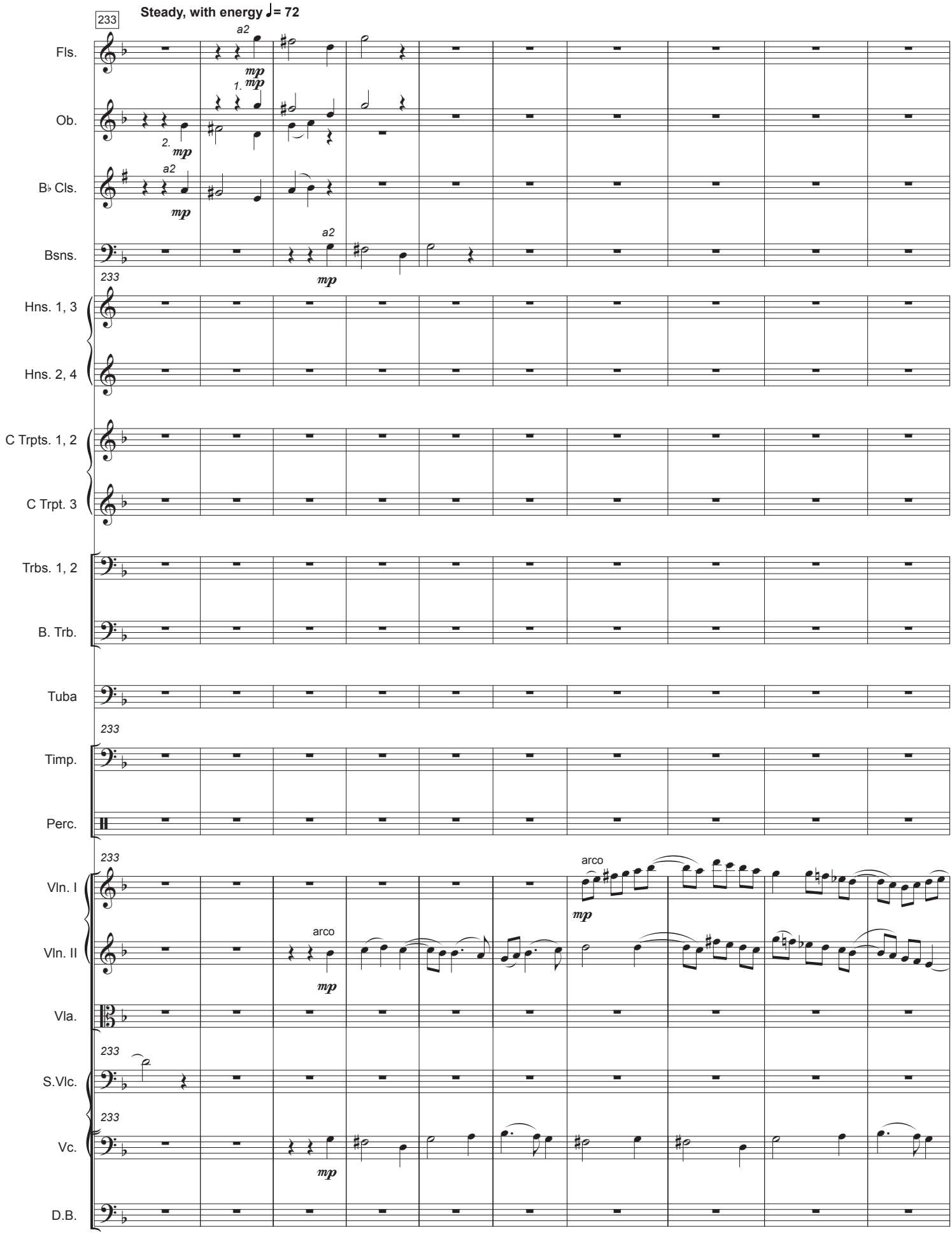

174
177
Gently singing ♩= 76
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
S.Vlc.
Vc.
D.B.
pizz.
p
cantabile
mf

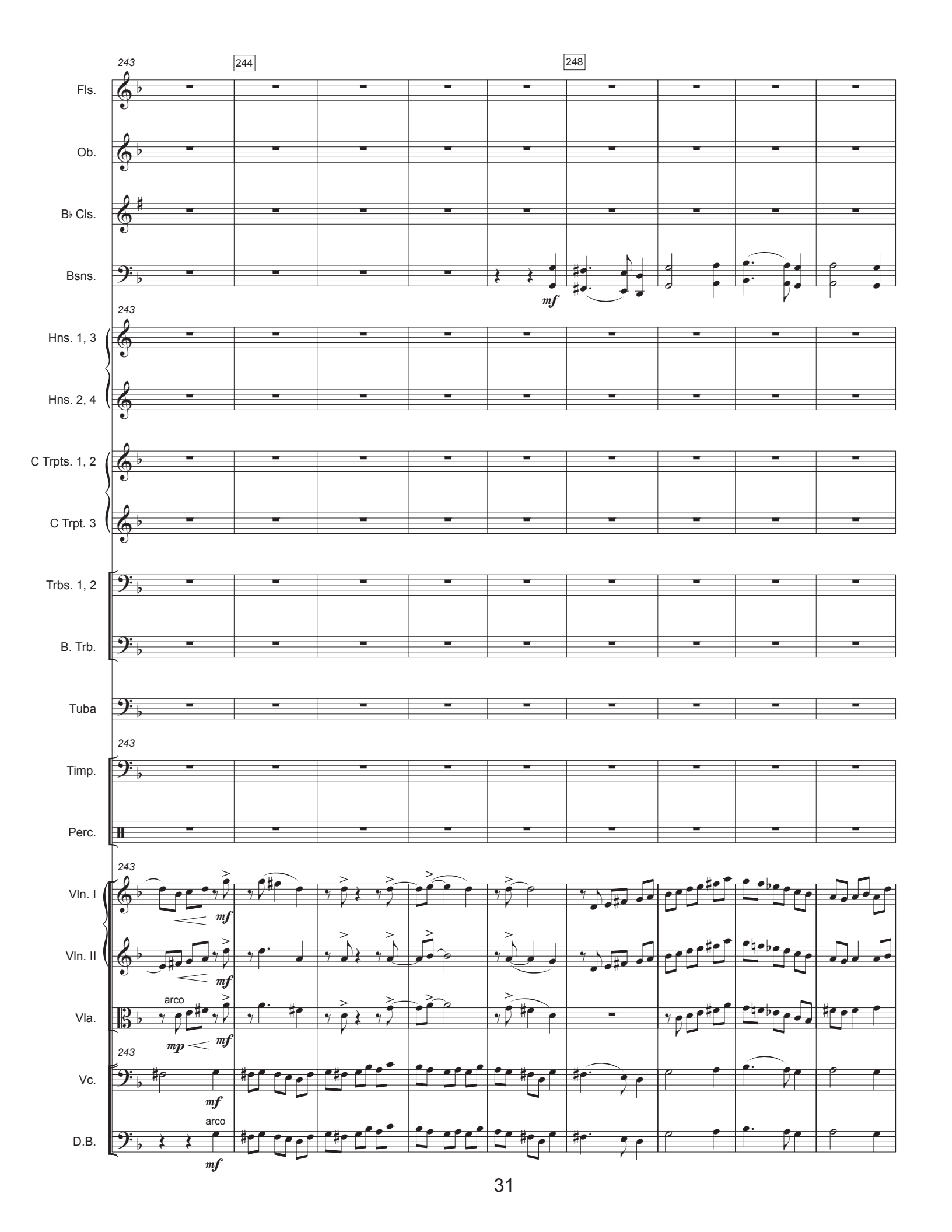

185
189
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
185
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
185
Timp.
Perc.
Suspended cymbal
With snare stick
Triangle
mp
mp
mp
mp
185
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
arco
arco
arco
185
S.Vlc.
185
Vc.
D.B.
p

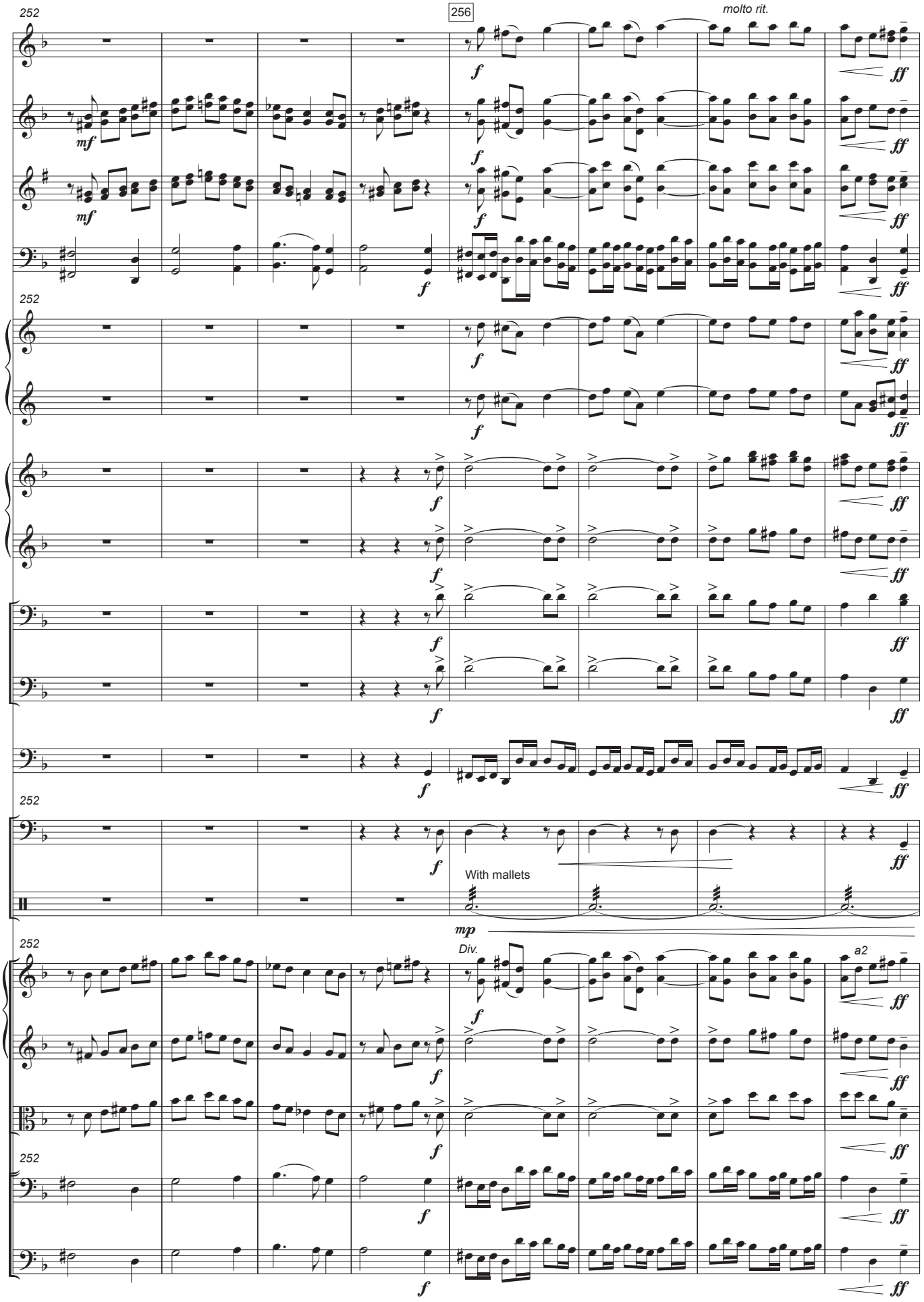

197
205
Fls.
Ob.
1. cantabile
mf
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
197
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
197
Timp.
Perc.
mp
mp
197
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
197
S.Vlc.
197
Vc.
D.B.

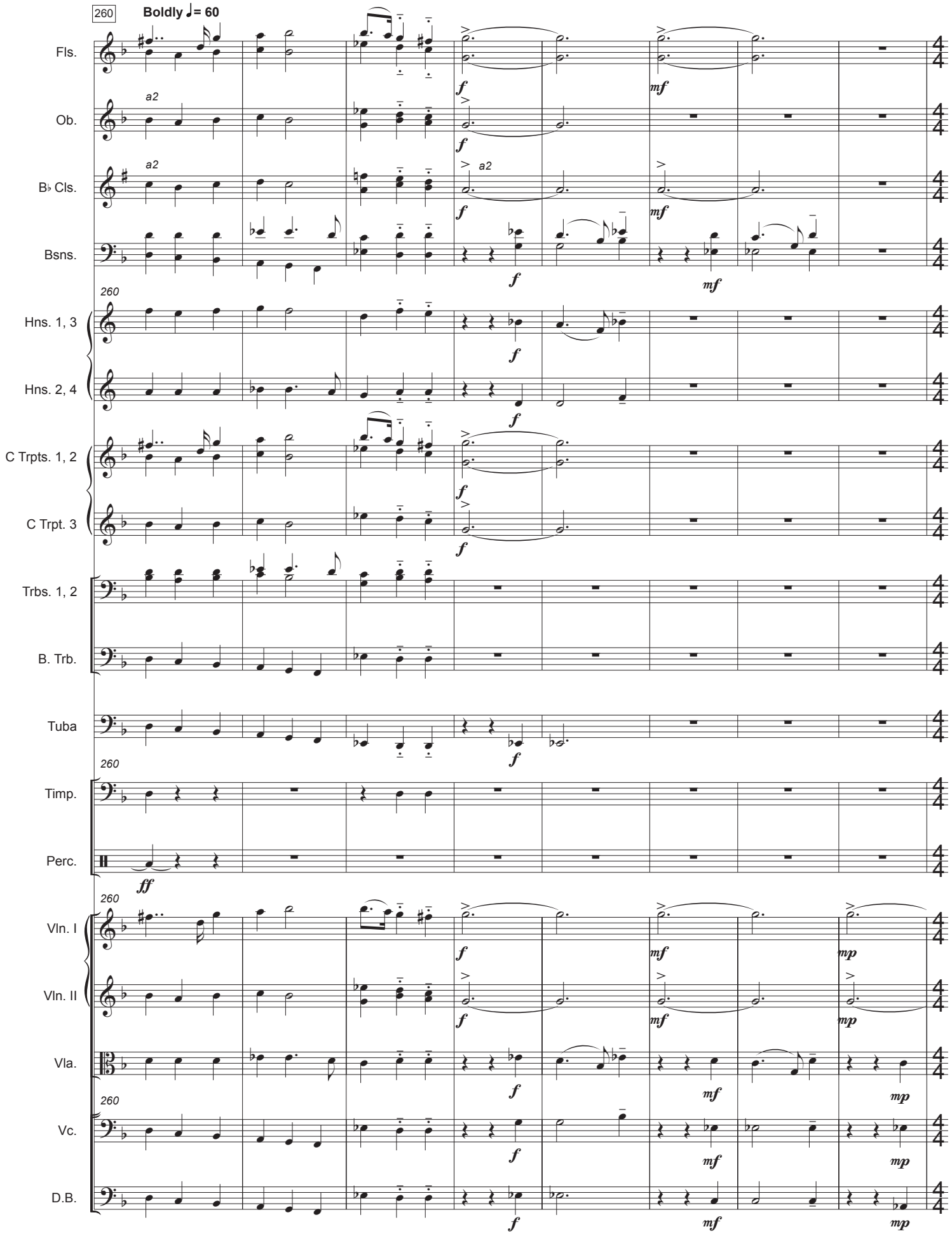

209
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
209
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
209
Timp.
Perc.
209
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
209
S.Vlc.
209
Vc.
D.B.

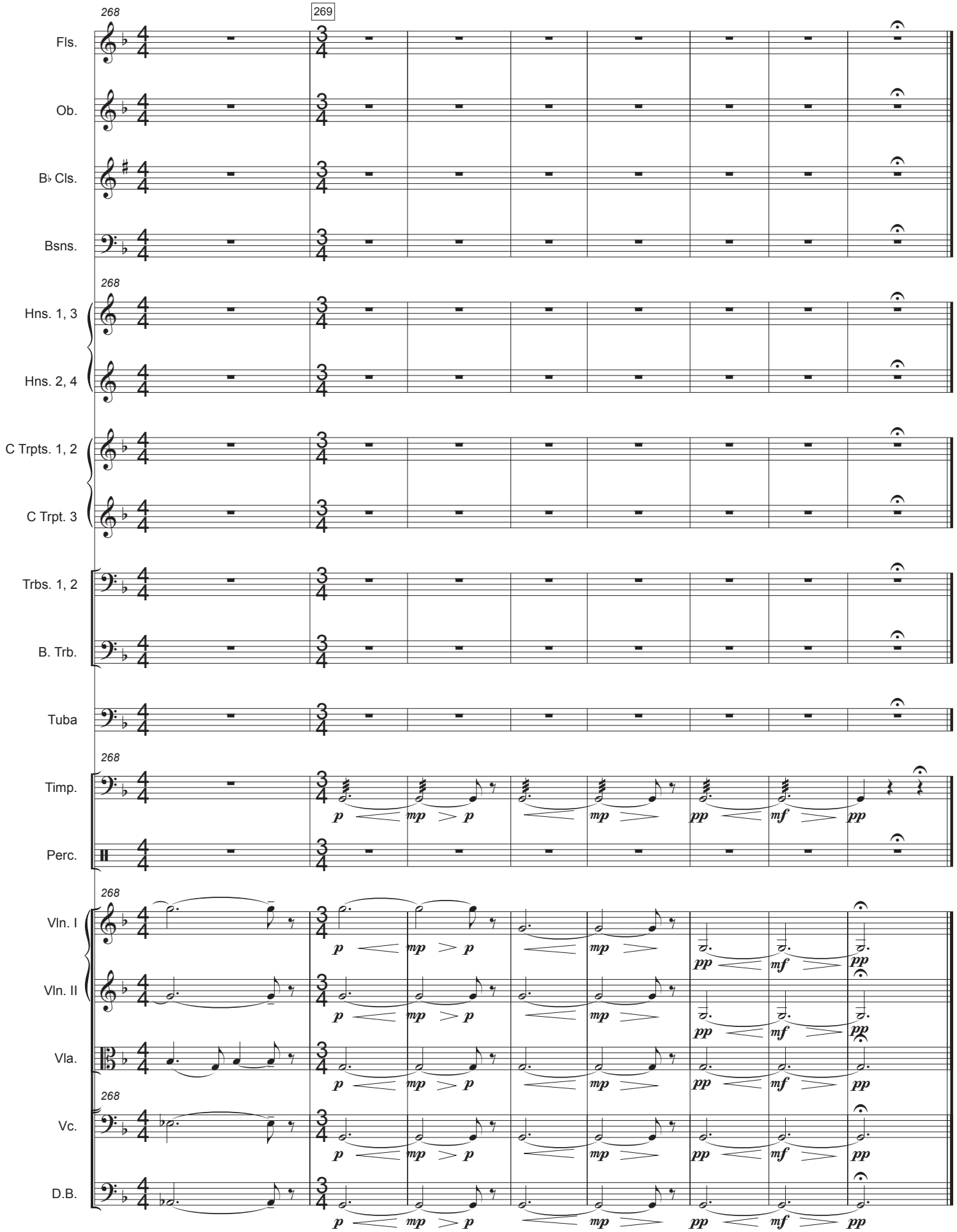

221
225
1.cantabile
Fls.
mp
Ob.
mp
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
221
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
221
Timp.
Perc.
221
pizz.
Vln. I
pizz.
Vln. II
pizz.
Vla.
221
S.Vlc.
mp
p
221
Vc.
D.B.


233
Steady, with energy ♩= 72
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
S.Vlc.
Vc.
D.B.
a2
1.
2.
mp
arco


243
244
248
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
mf
243
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
243
Timp.
Perc.
243
Vln. I
mf
Vln. II
mf
arco
Vla.
mp
mf
243
Vc.
mf
arco
D.B.
mf


252
256
molto rit.
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
Timp.
Perc.
With mallets
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
Div.
a2
mf
mp
f
ff


260
Boldly ♩= 60
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
a2
f
mf
mp
ff


268
269
Fls.
Ob.
B♭ Cls.
Bsns.
Hns. 1, 3
Hns. 2, 4
C Trpts. 1, 2
C Trpt. 3
Trbs. 1, 2
B. Trb.
Tuba
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.